

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 2 JANUARY 18, 2013

House stalls VAWA partly due to Native provision

■ The provision would have extended additional protection to Native American women by expanding the jurisdictional reach of tribal courts.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – With the Violence Against Women Act

lost in the fiscal cliff shuffle, many across Indian Country have been left wondering when the impact will kick in.

“How are tribes to protect their future?” asked Choctaw Nation citizen Tabatha Harris. “Women bear the children who later become the leaders of our nations. If no support is given to Native women, then no support is given to tribal nations.”

First passed in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act is credited with reducing domestic violence rates by two-thirds nationwide. It was renewed in 2000 and 2005 with bipartisan support and was brought forward for renewal in 2012 during the 112th Congress. The Senate-passed version of the bill stalled and ultimately died in the House of Representatives

in part due to concerns about a provision that would extend additional protection to Native American women by expanding the jurisdictional reach of tribal courts. No timeline has been given for when it will be brought up during the 113th Congress.

“In the past, Congress passed VAWA with overwhelming bipartisan support because the issues are compelling and

the funds appropriated benefit such a large number of citizens nationwide,” said Donna Matthews, associate director with Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Tulsa, Okla. “We have every hope and expectation that the same bipartisan support will be in evidence as this incoming Congress addresses the need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.”



Donna Matthews

See **VAWA** Continued on Page 3



DEANNE FITZMAURICE | COURTESY

Healthy Start client, Miranda Day Boy, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in S.D. with her son Jasper. The case management program to reduce infant mortality on the reservation cannot find safe and adequate office space with more than 270 clients on their rolls.

Reservation Healthy Start program at risk, endangered by lack of money, office space

S.E. RUCKMAN
Native Times Special Contributor

PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, S.D. – Small, delicate and vulnerable, babies born on the Pine Ridge Reservation can expect a life that will be inexhaustibly bleak. Their little lives will meld into wildly disproportionate social statistics on the Oglala Sioux reservation where the average median income hovers around \$3,000 a year.

The hard scramble region is a perfect match for Healthy Start, a pre-natal federal program that promotes family improvement through case management, site visits and classes. But finding safe

office space on the reservation has hobbled the program meant to improve young lives. Northern Plains Healthy Start receives \$1.2 million a year on a four-year federal grant.

Healthy Start boasts 105 programs in high risk areas including 39 states. The initiative, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), reduces risk factors that lead to high infant mortality rates tied to racial disparities. Those factors include poor nutrition, substance abuse, diabetes, alcoholism, poverty, domestic violence and others.

Most of the health disparities hold sway

on Pine Ridge. With infant mortality on the reservation seven times the national average, December was a particularly hard month when two infants died. Those two babies were not enrolled in Healthy Start, officials said.

Two case managers work a 270-plus active client list in a makeshift office for pre-natal patients, post partum mothers and newborn infants. “There’s a lot of people we’re not able to reach because our reservation is huge, over one million acres,” said case manager, Roberta Ecoffey.

Healthy Start on Pine Ridge first lost its offices when asbestos overrun was

See **START** Continued on Page 4

Tribal infighting spills into Capitol, court

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – A power struggle that has splintered the Blackfeet Indians’ governing council and divided the tribe is moving beyond the reservation’s boundaries.

The intra-tribal political feud has been escalating for nearly a year, leading to the dismissal or suspension of several members of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council and leaving just five of its nine members to make decisions for the governing body.

The division has led to accusations of corruption by supporters of both factions and street protests outside tribal government offices in Browning.

The tumult has largely been contained to the isolated reservation in remote northwestern Montana. But this week, it spilled into the halls of the state Capitol and the federal courthouse in Great Falls with the arrest of three ex-tribal leaders accused of holding illegal big game hunts for country music stars and a film crew.

Tribal Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. said justice is now at hand with last Tuesday’s arraignment of dismissed tribal councilman Jay St. Goddard, suspended councilman Jay Wells and former tribal Fish and Game director Gayle Skunkcap Jr.

“We finally feel vindicated for the months of turmoil

that have swirled around the Blackfeet Tribe, all caused by just a few top officials and their followers,” Sharp said in a statement.

But supporters of the three men and the other suspended council members are trying to call attention to what they call abuse of power by the ruling council members. Approximately two dozen supporters were at Monday’s opening of the legislative session to protest two council members who also are lawmakers, state Sen. Shannon Augare and Rep. Forrestina Calf Boss Ribs.

The protesters said they want to spread their message to the outside world and they see the legislative session as an opportunity to do so.

“It’s really sad the way things are running now on our reservation,” said Barbara After Buffalo, a Blackfeet elder.

After Buffalo, Kitty Bull Calf and her husband, Edward Bull Calf, held signs that said “Blackfeet Against Corruption” while standing in the Senate gallery above Augare and the 49 other senators in their opening session.

“We’re trying to let the Senate people and the House people know what they’re working with,” Edward Bull Calf said.

Augare and Calf Boss Ribs did not immediately return calls for comment

See **FIGHTING** Continued on Page 4

Paiutes welcome copper mining, recall devastation

RAY HAGAR
Reno Gazette-Journal

YERINGTON, Nev. (AP) – You can’t drink the water on the Yerington Paiute reservation because it could kill you.

The ground water was poisoned by the old Anaconda copper mine, which stopped production in 1978 but still is designated as a federal Superfund site, according to the EPA.

Federal law requires that the reservation’s drinking water must be bottled and provided by British Petroleum, the responsible party for the Anaconda ecological disaster.

But if Congress passes a bill that will

allow for a 19-square-mile federal land transfer to the city of Yerington, copper mining would return to Lyon County and create hundreds of jobs.

The Native Americans desperately need those jobs – unemployment on the reservation is 65 percent – but they are wary of the environmental damage more copper mining could cause.

For 10,000 years, Mason Valley has been the Paiutes’ land to nurture and respect, they said. The scar from the Anaconda copper mine cuts deep into their psyche.

“They got the minerals out and left,”

See **MINING** Continued on Page 4



MARILYN NEWTON | RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL | COURTESY

The old Anaconda mine pit is partially filled with water near Yerington, Nevada.



TW Shannon (R-Lawton)

Chickasaw citizen officially named House Speaker

OKLAHOMA CITY – A Chickasaw Nation citizen is officially speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Rep. TW Shannon (R-Lawton) was elected Jan. 8 by a 69-28 vote over House Minority Leader Rep. Scott Inman (D-Del City). The first African-American and the youngest person to date to hold the post, Shannon was confirmed by the House Republican Caucus in November, making last week's vote largely symbolic.

“We won't always agree on every issue, but I hope we can all agree on this: We are each made in the image of God,” he said. “As your speaker, I pledge to always treat you in this way, with dignity and respect no matter who you are or which party you belong to.”

Shannon was first elected to the state legislature in 2006 and is the first Republican to represent House District 62. He is the first Native American to serve as speaker since Cherokee Nation citizen and former Rep. Chris Benge (R-Tulsa) stepped down in 2010 due to term limits.

The 2013 legislative session will begin on Feb. 4.

Keetoowah Band swears in elected officials

M. THOMAS JORDAN
UKB Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma swore in the 13 members of its tribal council Jan. 5.

The 13 incumbents won back their seats in a Nov. 5 election and a Dec. 3 run-off election.

Several hundred people gathered in the Herb Rozell Ballroom at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah to witness the event.

The crowd was entertained by Tonya Russell, Miss Indian Oklahoma 2000-2001, who played her flute, and the Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir, which sang “God’s Children” and “Sunday School Song” in the Keetoowah Cherokee language.

Ken Bellmard, UKB attorney general, spoke as one of the keynote speakers.

“In the past 12 years the Keetoowahs have proven they are a resilient people,” said Bellmard. “2012 was a big year for the United Keetoowah Band and we hope the progress will continue. We need all Keetoowahs to join together, to put away all the things that have torn us apart for the past two years. The council and their work are the reason for the progress.”

Jim McMillan, McAfee and Taft, praised the ethics of the current administration.

“Nine years ago the Keetoowahs came to our firm to see about getting land in trust,” said McMillan. “The reason this became possible is that the leaders had outstanding goals. I have had the privilege of working with the chief and assistant chief. One limitation in the fight was that the chief and assistant chief have always insisted that we take the high road.”

During his inaugural address,

Chief George Wickliffe thanked the Keetoowah people for giving him and Assistant Chief Locust a record third term.

“It’s been a good first eight years and I am very, very grateful that the people have chosen to continue the progress.”

Chief Wickliffe, also, spoke of the tribe’s efforts to preserve the Keetoowah Cherokee language – a descriptive language that uses words to draw pictures in the minds of speakers. He invited the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma to join with the UKB in an effort to properly preserve the language.

Chief Wickliffe turned to the recent accomplishments of the tribe by partnering with the city, county, state and federal agencies to complete the West Willis Road project, which cost more than \$1.3 million.

“We support our communities, schools and churches,” said Chief Wickliffe. “Helping the community is the kind of people we are.”

Chief Justice Lynn Burris swore in Canadian District Representative Eddie Sacks, Cooweescoowee District Representative Clifford Wofford, Delaware District Representative Jerry Hansen, Flint District Representative Tom Duncan, Goingsnake District Representative William Christie, Illinois District Representative Peggy Girty, Saline District Representative Charles Smoke, Sequoyah District Representative Barry Dotson and Tahlequah District Representative Betty Holcomb for their two year terms.

He then swore in Tribal Treasurer Ella Mae Cooksey Worley, Tribal Secretary Joyce Fourkiller-Hawk, Assistant Chief Locust and Chief Wickliffe for their four year terms.



UKB MEDIA RELATIONS | COURTESY

The inauguration of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma 2013 administration, officers and tribal representatives were held Saturday Jan. 5, 2013 in the Herb Rozell Ballroom, Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Seated front, left to right, Joyce Fourkiller-Hawk, Tribal Secretary; Charles D. Locust, Assistant Chief; Chief George G. Wickliffe; and Ella Mae Cooksey Worley, Tribal Treasurer. Back row, left to right, Clifford Wofford, Cooweescoowee District; Eddie Sacks, Canadian District; Jerry Hansen, Delaware District; Tom Duncan, Flint District; William Christie, Goingsnake District; Peggy Girty, Illinois District; Charles Smoke, Saline District; Barry Dotson, Sequoyah District; and Betty Holcomb, Tahlequah District.

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.

Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
 - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
 - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

For a claim form or to update your contact information:
Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: www.IndianTrust.com

Rep. Cole lauds Chickasaw Diabetes Care Center

■Tom Cole (R-Okla.) visited the center one week after Congress voted to renew the Special Diabetes Program for Indians as part of the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012.

TONY CHOATE
Chickasaw Nation Media Release

ADA, Okla. – Oklahoma Fourth District Representative Tom Cole said that the Chickasaw Nation Diabetes Care Center in Ada “sets the standard” for this type of facility.

Rep. Cole visited the center one week after Congress voted to renew the Special Diabetes Program for Indians as part of the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012.

“I’ve seen any number of these things, and this is probably the premier diabetes prevention, treatment and research center in Indian Country,” said Rep. Cole.

Services at the diabetes care center focus on prevention of

diabetes as well as education to help patients minimize the devastating complications associated with the disease. Those complications may include amputation, blindness, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and even gum disease.

“I’ve seen, particularly in some of the other clinics, the damage to limbs, to feet, to eyes - and you think about this person who is going to have to live with this indefinitely or forever and how their lifespan is going to be shortened,” said Rep. Cole. “I mean look at a life without diabetes or in a controlled situation versus what it is otherwise. So that’s the human savings that is just beyond calculation.”

He went on to say that prevention and control of diabetes also makes great financial sense for tribal, state and federal government.

“Something like one out of three dollars in the health care system now is going to treat diabetes related conditions,” he said. “So think about how much money we spend on health care as a federal government or state governments - it’s extraordinary. So these are great investments from a

federal standpoint.

“Chickasaws can be very proud because this is some of the money generated by their enterprises put to really good use to touch positively the lives of their citizens and

which appropriates funds for the Indian Health Service and many other tribal programs.

“It’s really been a most wonderful partnership between Republicans and Democrats who fight cats and

difference it makes. Democrats Jim Moran of Virginia and Betty McCollum of Minnesota are also members of the subcommittee.

“We just have a really good group of people that care



CHICKASAW NATION MEDIA RELATIONS | COURTESY
Rep. Tom Cole (right) with Shondra McCage, program manager of the Diabetes Care Center and Dr. Judy Goforth Parker, administrator of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Health (left)

others in the area.”

Rep. Cole, a Chickasaw and one of only two American Indians in Congress, also offered praise to members of the House Appropriations subcommittee on Interior,

dogs over EPA funding and a lot of other things, but we don’t on Indian funding.”

He said the subcommittee chairman Mike Simpson of Idaho has been to the facility and was thrilled to see the

about Native American issues, that are knowledgeable about them, and want to find ways to work together on them. So it’s very different than most of the other things that go on in Congress right now.”

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe tries again for NY trust land

GROVE, Okla. – An Oklahoma tribe is making a second attempt to put part of its pre-removal homeland into trust.

The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe has applied to place 229 acres of land in Cayuga County, N.Y. into trust in order to open an off-reservation casino. The tribe purchased the land in 2002 and tried to open a casino, only to be overruled by a 2008 Bureau of Indian Affairs decision that the distance between the proposed location and the tribe’s jurisdictional area would prohibit the facility from offering sufficient employment opportunities for Seneca-Cayuga citizens.

Originally from Ohio,

Pennsylvania and New York, removal of the Senecas and Cayugas to Oklahoma began in 1831 and spanned a decade. The two tribes formed a joint government in 1937.

The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe currently operates the Grand Lake Casino near Grove, Okla., and previously submitted a land into trust application for an additional 33-acre parcel of land within the Delaware County community’s city limits. That application was returned in 2012 as incomplete. The tribe also operates a tobacco factory.

Calls to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe for comment were not returned.

Native artifacts undamaged in museum fire

PAWHUSKA, Okla. (AP) – Officials say they’re relieved no artifacts were damaged after a fire broke out at the Osage County Historical Society Museum in Pawhuska.

Authorities say the fire was reported early Wednesday. Firefighters were able to extinguish the flames, though the blaze caused extensive smoke damage in the building.

Jack Shoemate, the chairman of the museum’s board of directors, says he’s

relieved the building didn’t sustain major damage and that the contents of the museum were safe. The museum is located in a converted railway depot built in 1922.

The Examiner-Enterprise reports that the museum will remain closed to the public while repairs are being made to the building and its collections, which include priceless Native Americana and items from pioneer days.

The cause of the fire is not yet known.

VAWA

Continued from Page 1

Under the version passed by the Senate, tribal courts would have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute non-Native offenders accused of domestic violence or date-related violence against Native women on Indian land rather than passing those cases on to federal officials. That jurisdiction would not extend to crimes committed on non-tribal land or to crimes outside VAWA’s scope, such as robbery or identity theft.

According to the Indian Law Resource Center, non-Natives are responsible for 88 percent of all crimes committed against Native women. Figures from a 2010 Government Accountability Office report showed that federal prosecutors declined to pursue two-thirds of sexual abuse cases from Indian Country between 2005 and 2009.

Under current federal law, tribal courts can not impose a jail sentence of more than one year, leaving many felony cases unprosecuted and dismissed altogether until a until a grand jury indictment can be obtained.

“Non-natives come on to tribal lands all too often to assault and rape women,” Harris said. “They can’t be charged with the crime or have any legal action taken

against them. I know some tribes have legal support and partnerships with state and local officials, but there are still many tribes that don’t.”

Between 1994 and 2012, the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women, established by VAWA, provided \$4.7 billion in grants and awards for training police, prosecutors, health care professionals, counselors and others on how to handle cases concerning sexual violence, domestic violence and other related issues.

Under the terms of VAWA’s 2005 renewal, 10 percent of those funds are designated for tribal programs. In 2012, 37 tribal governments in 17 states received grant funding through the Office of Violence Against Women for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Although the authorization has expired, programs already approved for 2013 VAWA grants such as Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Tulsa, Okla., are able to continue operations for now.

“The acting director of the Office on Violence Against Women of the U. S. Department of Justice, Bea Hanson, recently wrote those who receive funding from that office through the Violence Against Women Act expressing her assurance that current grant funding will not be affected,” Matthews said. “Additionally, as long

- In 2012, 25,000 cases of domestic abuse were reported in Oklahoma alone.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline receives more than 22,000 calls each month. Ninety-two percent of callers report it is their first call for help.
- Since VAWA’s passage in 1994, 35 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands have adopted laws addressing domestic and sexual violence and stalking in the workplace.
- Native women are more than twice as likely to be raped or battered than any other group.

as Congress continues to appropriate funding for the Office on Violence Against Women, that office will continue with business as usual. We take that to mean that applications will continue to be accepted and granted.”

In the meantime, Indian Country is left to wonder just how long VAWA will go without re-authorization and what impact the delay will have on domestic and sexual violence victims.

“At this time, we do not expect our services to be immediately affected by expiration of the Violence Against Women Act,” Gov. Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation said. “However, we do believe it is important for members of Congress to continue working together to reauthorize this legislation and include provisions which help protect Native women.”

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

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Return of artifacts to Hopi Tribe raise questions

PHOENIX (AP) – The federal government recently returned a collection of artifacts to anonymous members of northern Arizona’s Hopi Tribe.

The proceeding involved a substantial expenditure of tax dollars, but the federal government has refused to provide an accounting of the money spent to return the archaeological treasure trove to the tribe under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The government has also declined to describe the repatriated items.

“Our intent is to honor the tribe’s request, made in consultation, not to disclose information,” the government answered repeatedly in response to requests for information made by The Arizona Republic.

The government’s response hints at an underlying controversy that has festered since the repatriation act was adopted in 1990.

Repatriation is a matter of justice for tribes. But for some archaeologists and anthropologists, the loss of ancient artifacts represents a scientific sacrilege – disposal of objects that may be irreplaceable

in understanding human history and cultures.

The items returned to the Hopi were collected during archaeological digs on the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff.

Records indicate the items included the remains of the Magician – one of the most scientifically important burial subjects ever found in the Southwest and perhaps one of the most sacred of Hopi ancestors.

The man was buried at a place known as the Ridge Ruin. The site was undisturbed for centuries until the late 1930s, when John McGregor, an archaeologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona, uncovered the skeleton and hundreds of carefully placed funerary objects that ranged from jewelry, baskets and cutting blades to mountain lion teeth. Some researchers suggested the man was a traveling Aztec merchant.

The Hopis said many of the objects were associated with ancient tribal skills such as shape-shifting, combating witchcraft and controlling weather or warfare. They called the man Moochiwimi, or Swallower of Sticks.

McGregor wrote in 1943 that

the Magician comprised “the richest burial ever reported in the Southwest.” Others described it as “The King Tut of Northern Arizona.”

To this day, the Magician remains a subject of research even though the Hopi continue to closely guard the sacredness of their religious practices.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office website includes protocols that prohibit archaeological, anthropological or historical work without permission, and authorizes censorship of information deemed sensitive or thought to misrepresent the Hopi way.

In the two decades since the repatriation act was adopted, museums and federal agencies have created lists of remains or sacred objects and determined whether those items are affiliated with modern indigenous groups.

Nearly 179,000 whole or partial corpses have been identified nationwide, with nearly 13,000 of those returned to tribes. More than two-thirds of the remains have not been linked to modern tribes.

About two million funerary or sacred objects have been inventoried by the museums and agencies. Roughly 176,000 of

those have been turned over to tribes.

Since 1996, the NAGPRA program has issued more than \$500,000 in grants to the Hopi Tribe for repatriation.

C. Vance Haynes Jr. is a professor emeritus of anthropology and geology at the University of Arizona. He was involved in a lawsuit that challenged the repatriation act.

“NAGPRA is a very important law,” he said. “But, when it comes to sites more than 4,000 years old, we need to be able to study. ... Our whole mission is to increase knowledge.”

Cleone Hawkinson, an anthropologist and president of a group known as Friends of America’s Past, described the act as narrow. Hawkinson said federal policy discriminates in favor of Native Americans and thwarts the quest to fathom human development.

Arizona State University American Indian studies scholar James Riding In and others said tribes have a right to privacy in reclaiming the ancients, regardless of tax dollars spent.

“It is a sovereignty issue that allows Indians to determine what happens to their deceased... It should be respected,” he said.

The five-member ruling faction suspended the four other members: Little Dog, Wells, Paul McEvers and William Old Chief. The remaining council members continued to operate after invoking emergency powers.

Protests erupted on the reservation, and the tribe requested additional security officers from neighboring reservations. The four suspended council members twice requested BIA intervention, but BIA officials at first could not get Sharp’s office to respond to calls, and then the chairman told officials the council desired no assistance.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Donald Laverdure said in a Sept. 7 letter to Sharp he was concerned about the Blackfeet’s governmental operations and that his agency would continue to monitor the reservation because of the safety concerns raised by the dispute.

FIGHTING

Continued from Page 1

Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Jan. 8, about a dozen of the same protesters filled the entryway to the Great Falls courthouse. They had planned to support St. Goddard, Wells and Skunkcap, but were told there was not enough room for them in the conference room being used for arraignments.

The three men have been charged with six felony counts for holding big-game hunts on the reservation for a film crew and country music stars. The indictment accuses the men of illegally selling the tribe’s wildlife and stealing from the tribe for the 2010 and 2011 hunts that included musicians Josh Thompson and Justin Moore, along with a film crew for the hunting show “The Sovereign Sportsman.”

The three men have pleaded not guilty. U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon on Wednesday set a March 5 trial date.

The protesters say the charges are trumped-up and really an extension of the political infighting.

“I think they’ve been railroaded,” said Leona Skunkcap, Gayle Skunkcap’s mother who also raised Wells. “I know my sons, and I know they live to help the people.”

The tribal council said in a statement released by its attorney that politics has nothing to do with the charges.

“The fault lies totally in the hands of these three men who operated as if they were a law unto themselves,” the statement said.

St. Goddard was suspended from the council in March over the hunts and impeached in June after tribal officials said he failed to show up for a hearing. St.

Goddard said in a Sept. 8 video posted on YouTube that he was illegally impeached for speaking out against corruption.

“One of the reasons they removed me is probably just because they don’t like me because I spoke up a lot against things they were trying to do,” he said in the video.

The council appointed Roger “Sassy” Running Crane to replace him in July and appointed Sharp as chairman over the protests of St. Goddard’s supporters.

The next month, four council members led by tribal secretary Cheryl Little Dog, and including Wells, tried to wrest leadership of the council from Sharp and reinstate St. Goddard. But the coup failed, and Sharp, Calf Boss Ribs, Augare, Running Crane and Earl Old Person were recognized as the council’s leaders by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, according to the Glacier News, the Browning newspaper.

MINING

Continued from Page 1

tribal member Vernon Rogers told the Reno Gazette-Journal about the Anaconda operation. “That (mine site) is like our living room. That is like us going into their house, digging up their living room and leaving. That’s what we’ve got here. These mining companies come in and do this and then the permanent residents suffer the consequences.”

Caring for Mother Earth is a duty handed to the Paiutes by ancestors. They view earth – the dirt, sky, water and vegetation – differently than others.

“We not only have to think of our generation, but we have to think of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren,” said LaVerne Roberts, a Yerington tribe member.

That is why some tribe members are wary about the rebirth of mining around Yerington, even though it could be an economic godsend to Lyon County – Nevada’s most economically depressed county.

The future of copper mining around Yerington is now being decided in Washington, D.C. If Congress passes a bill allowing for the land transfer, the once-thriving copper mining economy of Lyon County could return in a big way.

The land surrounds the Nevada Copper project. It would not only provide room for ancillary mining business, but also room for a recreational area, business park and outdoor concert

venue in a grand plan to erase the economic disparity.

The Nevada Copper project is expected to eventually create 800 mining jobs with an \$85,000 average salary and up to 2,000 more jobs indirectly tied to the mine, according to county officials.

Employing Native Americans

The Yerington Paiutes have not opposed Nevada Copper’s Pumpkin Hollow mine in any legal way. Some may be wary but realize the return of copper mining is inevitable.

Instead of opposing the mine, they would like to share in the economic relief. Lyon County’s unemployment is a state-leading 18 percent. Yet tribal officials estimate the unemployment at the Yerington Paiute reservation is about 65 percent. An official from the nearby Walker River Paiute Tribe told county commissioners that unemployment is about 80 percent among her people.

“We are not saying that the mine would be such a bad thing,” said Gayleen Roy, Yerington Paiute education director. “We need jobs, too.”

The tribe is only trying to better the lives of its members, Roy said.

“We, as a tribe, have to move with the flow of things,” she said. “We have to change and adapt, just like everybody else.”

Once hurdles like Congress and state permitting are finished, Nevada Copper will then focus on job training, including for Yerington and Walker River Paiutes, a top executive for Nevada Copper said.

“We will make the opportunities available for all locals, tribal members and whoever is local,” said Tim Dyhr, Nevada Copper’s vice president of environment and external relations.

Nevada Copper is teaming with the state’s Nevada JobConnect to train a workforce.

“We believe there are people in the valley who want to work but don’t have the necessary skills now,” Dyhr said. “The job of an underground miner – nobody has experience in underground mining. We just can’t send people underground. You have to have a certain kind of training. The same thing applies to every function within the project.”

Dyhr said he gave talks about employment potential to the Yerington and Walker River tribal councils.

“It has been a while, but if I went back today, I’d tell them the same thing: Somewhere in the future we’ll have jobs (available) and we’ll have to figure out how to get people trained.”

Wovoka wilderness area

The Yerington Paiutes and the Walker River Paiutes also have another reason to support the bill.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Las Vegas, made it clear a few months ago that he would only support the Yerington land transfer if it included a wilderness area named after the venerated Paiute holy man of the 19th century, Wovoka.

Republican politicians like U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Carson City, were critical of Reid’s meddling but realized

they must acquiesce to the Senate leader or the land transfer was dead.

Last month, Lyon County commissioners approved a 48,000-square-acre wilderness area south of Yerington called the Wovoka Wilderness.

Although Reid has helped the Yerington Paiutes with issues surrounding the Anaconda site, Paiutes said they were never consulted about the wilderness area but are ecstatic to get it.

The wilderness area is sacred to the Paiute people of the region.

“We have ties to that land,” Rogers said. “Our people go up there and we gather pine nuts. There are also a lot of sacred sites up there. It has a lot of petroglyphs. There are burial sites up there.”

Animosity toward Reid

Some tribal members and others associated with the tribe said they were surprised by the anti-Reid vitriol expressed by some Lyon County citizens during an early December Lyon commissioners meeting about the Wovoka wilderness.

Some ranchers were against the wilderness, fearing it would limit grazing. Others feared it would limit many outdoor recreations.

“There was so much negativity toward Sen. Reid,” said Lauryne Wright, the Yerington Paiutes’ environmental director. “It was like, ‘I’m against anything Sen. Reid is for.’”

Former Sen. Richard Bryan, a consultant for Nevada Copper, flew into Yerington meeting and preached compromise. People bought what he was

saying, and the wilderness area was approved.

“Compromise is part of the big picture,” Bryan said. “By way of analogy, some people just hate wilderness, but many of them were prepared to say, ‘Look, I don’t like wilderness but there is another issue that was important and those concerns were that Yerington and Lyon County has some of the highest unemployment in the country and this was an opportunity for some economic development.”

“So some who were not exactly rhapsodic about wilderness said, ‘Look, for the greater good of the community, I think I can support this.’ That’s how I saw the compromise,” Bryan said.

Mining concerns

Despite the promise of jobs and the wilderness area, Paiutes remain concerned about potential ecological damage that could be done by the Nevada Copper project.

The same ground-water pollution that doomed their side of the valley could be repeated, Paiutes fear.

And this time, it could be worse, they warn. Since the water runs south to north in the valley, some Paiutes are concerned the mine could potentially spoil municipal drinking water in Yerington and the down-river water supply of the Walker River Paiute Tribe.

Yerington Mayor George Dini doesn’t share the concerns: “Not one bit,” he said.

Dini points to advanced mining technology, new federal regulations and stringent environment

START

Continued from Page 1

discovered in the old Indian hospital. A back up plan to move into an old bingo hall backfired after mold was discovered on the site. Healthy Start then moved to a storage room in a local video store. That site was declared unfit by a health engineer after massive amounts of rat and mice droppings were discovered. Rodent waste raises the risk of contracting a Hantavirus especially when the heating is used. Clean up has been partial.

Despite the search for office space, reservation babies keep arriving. They are born into families with high alcoholism rates, teen pregnancy and stratospheric unemployment. On Pine Ridge, men usually live until the age of 48 and women who reach 53 have already defied the odds. More than half the babies will likely be raised by grandparents at some point in their lives, statistics show.

Trouble shooting becomes a way of life on the reservation, Ecoffey said. A successful weekend is gauged by keeping warm and having enough to eat. Money the case workers earn can often go to meet out-of-pocket expenses not covered by grant monies. Gas is a big expense item.

“Sometimes a client will call and say they are walking,” she said. “And we’ll get into the car and go look for them.”

Case workers go and look for them because depression is a stronghold of young mothers on the reservation. Ecoffey said nearly every client reviewed for intake “rates off the charts,” in meeting depression criteria.

Meanwhile, their search for workable office space continues. Hopes are pinned on a campaign to build new offices if donors or grants are secured. But that is years away, advocates said. At present, Ecoffey said their end of Healthy Start receives about \$200 to operate on per month. After salaries and expenses to eleven sites across a four-state (Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota) area, HRSA funds don’t go far. Building a new facility with current grant funds is not doable, officials said.

“We kind of go into survival mode,” Ecoffey said. “We do what we can with what we have.”

Lack of office space for Healthy Start is further complicated by its sponsor agency, the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Health Board (GPTCHB), a nonprofit, in nearby Rapid City, SD which is already beset by a \$1 million debt and a recent restructuring that reduced its employee base in late 2012.

Dr. Don Warne, an Oglala physician who also hails from the reservation, said that the GPTCHB administers various grants meant to help 18 tribes. Funds get spread pretty thinly, he said. The agency tried at one time to give the grant funds directly to the tribes but monies not being drawn down drew the ire of funding sources. Warne was a longtime senior policy advisor for GPTCHB.

“It’s a decent amount of money but then you’re talking about 18 tribes...” he said. “But then it’s terribly underfunded for the amount of work that needs to be done for the high risk population. We’re talking about one of the poorest tribes in the nation.”

standards of the EPA.

“I don’t believe that there is any potential for the Yerington water system to be contaminated by Nevada Copper,” Dini said. “Nor do I believe that the Walker River could be contaminated in any way.”

Dini is correct that environmental constraints are much more stringent compared to when the Anaconda mine was producing some 40 or 50 years ago, said John Hadder, director of the Great Basin Resource Watch.

“There have been significant changes since the Anaconda mine was in place,” Hadder said. “We have better state regulations. We have a better calculation of the bonding that is necessary in case there is a problem. We have improvements in place in terms of the regulations. That being said, there still could be problems there with the existing regulations.”

Nevada Copper has done significant studies on ground water, and those studies will be shared with the public after they are submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Dyhr understands the Paiutes’ wariness, since they have yet to see the studies.

“Their fears are legitimate because they have not seen anything to say, ‘Do we know whether this will pollute the ground water or not?’ I would not ask them to do that. I would ask them to listen with an open mind to the information that we have developed and not prejudice it to think it will be contaminating their water supply.”

COMMENTARY

The destruction of Wounded Knee: 1973

Notes from Indian Country



TIM GIAGO
Nanwica Kciji
© *Unity South Dakota*

In a couple of weeks flyers will be strewn across the Pine Ridge Reservation asking the residents to honor the “Liberation of Wounded Knee in February of 1973.” Those who would celebrate and hand out flyers have a delusional recollection of the past.

Wounded Knee was a small village on the Pine Ridge Reservation. There were homes where approximately 35 families dwelled and there was a so-called Trading Post which was the only grocery store for miles to serve the residents of Wounded

Knee and the nearby village of Manderson. Wounded Knee was also the historical site of the horrible massacre of 300 Lakota men, women and children on Dec. 29, 1890.

In February of 1973 members of the American Indian Movement forcibly occupied the village taking hostage some of the residents and Clive and Agnes Gildersleeve, the elderly owners of the Wounded Knee Trading Post. Clive was a white man and his wife Agnes was a member of the Ojibwe people of Minnesota.

The Trading Post and the homes of the mostly Lakota people living in the village were looted and eventually destroyed. Neither the Trading Post nor the homes that once made up Wounded Knee have ever been rebuilt. This was a liberation?

Liberation means to set a path to freedom. The freedom of the store owners and of the villagers at Wounded Knee was taken from them. They were freed of their homes and all of their earthly possessions.

The occupation of Wounded Knee was a serious blunder by the American Indian Movement. From the moment they set foot in Wounded Knee and took the first hostages they set themselves on a

path of violence that did not end until one of their members, Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, was violently raped and murdered near Wamblee a few years later by members of their own organization.

Two of the “liberators” of Wounded Knee are now serving life sentences for the murder of Anna Mae. Someone in the upper echelons of AIM determined that Aquash was an FBI informant and ordered her execution. The two foot soldiers who carried out that sentence are the only ones convicted of her murder and to this day, no one knows, or no one will admit, who gave the actual order to take her out. Arlo Looking Cloud and John “Boy” Graham probably know the answer to that, but they are behind bars and not talking.

Whenever I hear an ignorant reporter on the radio or on television talk about the “uprising” at Wounded Knee, I call them immediately and inform them that it was not an “uprising” but it was an illegal “occupation.” The residents of Wounded Knee and the owners of the Trading Post did not rise up, but instead were beaten down by the occupiers.

It has been 122 years since the massacre at Wounded Knee and

I am still puzzled as to why the government of the Oglala Sioux Tribe would celebrate an illegal occupation that damaged the lives of so many of their own and not celebrate and honor the victims of the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890. Now those were the real heroes of Wounded Knee and not the cowards who came into the village in the middle of the night to terrorize the elderly Gildersleeves and the residents of the village by pushing them from their homes with guns at their heads.

As I have written in the past, my father Tim, worked for the Gildersleeves as a clerk and butcher at the Trading Post. A fluent Lakota speaker, he knew many of the Lakota from and around Wounded Knee. When some of the Lakota elders came into the store, even if the Gildersleeves were not busy, they would wait patiently for my father to finish waiting on the customer in front of them and then bring their groceries to him. As a boy I remember standing in the store and listening to these elderly Lakota laugh and joke with my father. He always had a story or a joke to share with them. We lived in one of the cabins at Wounded Knee that was eventually burned to

the ground during the occupation. The Gildersleeves were not only the employers of my father, they were also his friends.

Although the history of Wounded Knee is filled with sadness, I know that when I was a boy living there, those were happy times for me. I used to ride on a tricycle with my friend Joan Gildersleeve, the daughter of Clive and Agnes, on the cement sidewalk that ran in front of the cabins and all of the way to the store front. Wounded Knee was a quiet and peaceful village and it was my home.

The village is now gone, burned to the ground. The homes and the Trading Post were never rebuilt and the empty streets and burned out homes are stark reminders of the day Wounded Knee was “liberated.”

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, was born, raised and educated on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in the Class of 1991. He was inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2007. He can be reached at Unitysodak1@knology.net

Around the Campfire: Many fake Indians



DR. DEAN CHAVERS

Non-Indians started speaking for Indians shortly after European contact. Most of these writers were authentic translators, teachers, ministers, writers, novelists, and journalists. Some, such as Helen Hunt Jackson, have done tremendous good. Her book “A Century of Dishonor,” about how the government lied to Indians, cheated them, and took their lands, is the most important Indian book ever published.

But some have distorted the picture, misled people, presented imagined happenings as facts, and tried to make people believe they were Indians when they were not. Some of them have been little people who got a teaching job at a college or school, and suddenly discovered that they were “Indians.” They then become the authority on all things Indian. They do the pow wows, the convocations, the celebration weeks, the Indian days, and the poetry readings.

And a few have gone off the deep end. Carlos Castaneda, who was born in South America, got his Ph. D. from UCLA on the strength of his account of a Yaqui holy man named Juan Matus. But there were times he was supposed to be meeting with the holy

man that he was actually holed up on the campus in the library. He made fantastic claims: that Don Juan could turn people into animals (“shape shifters”), that datura, marijuana, and other drugs had magical properties, and that people could fly. But his fake shamanism fit right in with the druggies of the sixties. UCLA finally took his Ph. D. away.

Nevertheless, he died leaving a considerable estate of several million dollars to his children and family. Many colleges are still using his fake books as authentic textbooks. An article in Time Magazine in 1973 charged that the accounts Castaneda gave of his training under Don Juan were fictitious, and that Don Juan did not exist. Castaneda soon went into seclusion, not appearing in public for two decades. UCLA Press is still selling his books, shamelessly. What a bunch of hypocrites!

Hyemeyohsts Storm, whose first name is hard to spell and to say, was another faker who made a minor fortune with his fake Indian book, *Seven Arrows*. It tried to be a genuine representation of the ceremonies of the Cheyenne people, but it came out as hippie mish-mash, just right for the 1970s. After a minor smash, the man faded away, but apparently never stopped pretending to be Indian. He sold lectures and ceremonies to unsuspecting people for years.

A white woman named Ruth Beebe Hill showed up at my office in California one day in 1978. She was promoting her novel, *Hanta Yo*, which she claimed was an authentic story from the days when the Dakota Indian people were still free. She claimed

to have an Indian man as her informant. She got upset at me when I declined to help her by reviewing her book or endorsing it.

But Hill persisted, and made herself somewhat of an annoyance nationally. Jo Allyn Archambault exposed her as a fraud shortly after her book was published. Several other people exposed her as a fraud and her book as fake, but she had the spotlight long enough to make some money from her book. Unfortunately, it is still selling.

I had seen her type before—conniving, smarmy, and trying to be ingratiating. One of them, a medical type, showed up at my office at Cal State Hayward in 1974. She wanted to recruit some of our male Indian students, give each a six-pack of beer, let them drink it, and then measure the rate at which they metabolized it. Her “theory” was that Indians had a drinking problem because they metabolized alcohol at a slower rate than whites. I threw her out, and did the same to Hill.

Lynn Andrews, a sometime movie actress, made a fortune off her series of fake Indian books. And she took it to another level. She charged people stiff fees to go through what she said were authentic Indian rituals. These rituals were conducted in grand ballrooms of hotels in New York and San Francisco, giving coronaries to the Indian people who follow true Indian religions.

An inauthentic Indian tough guy, played by a white guy, made his appearance in several fake Indian movies of the 1970s period. The “Billy Jack” movies made money for the actor and writer, Tom

Laughlin, who soon stopped pretending to be a half-breed Indian.

Forrest Carter, who had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan and a speechwriter for George Wallace, wrote another fake Indian book called *The Education of Little Tree*. It was about a Cherokee boy and his growing up in the mountains of North Carolina. It was supposed to be true. The book sold in the millions, and spawned a movie. The only problem was that Carter had never been to North Carolina, and had made the whole thing up.

His real name was Asa Earl Carter, and he had been raised by his parents in Anniston, Alabama. He wrote the famous words for George Wallace’s first inaugural speech, “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.” The University of New Mexico Press, unfortunately, is still selling his fake book. It has sold in the millions. They will not answer my e-mails about why they continue to sell a fraud.

Other fake Indians include:

- Jamake Highwater, who was a Greek named Jay Marks or Markopolus when he finished high school in California in 1950. Hank Adams exposed him as a fake in the 1970s, after he had obtained a huge federal grant to make a PBS documentary called “The Primal Mind.” He also wrote a number of “Indian” books.

- Ward Churchill, who had a quarter century run at the University of Colorado and published more than a dozen Indian books. The university dismissed him in

2008 for plagiarizing. He had exposed himself to ridicule after he called the widows of the September 11, 2001 attack “little Eichmans.” He led the Colorado chapter of the American Indian Movement for the whole time he was at the university. The tribe that enrolled him took it back.

- Timothy Patrick Burrus, who went by the fake name of Nasdijj and had three hugely successful books in the early 2000s. They were based on his faked Navajo childhood, which was full of death, child molestation, and domestic violence. Several people exposed him in 2006. After that he could get no more of his fake Indian books published.

- Margaret Seltzer, who published under the fake name Margaret B. Jones, and who claimed to have been brought up in South Central Los Angeles. She claimed to be half white and half Navajo. But she was all white, not brought up in a ghetto in South Central, and had gone to prep schools. NPR exposed her almost immediately, and the publisher recalled all her books.

- Sylvester Clark Long, also known as Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance was a “colored” man who escaped North Carolina, went to Canada, and starting impersonating being an Indian. He traveled the Wild West show circuit and starred in a Hollywood movie. He learned a few words of Cherokee, but later claimed to be a Blackfoot born in Canada. He also

wrote a book that was soon proved to be fake. He was possibly the first fake Indian author, having written in the early 1920s. He committed suicide in 1931 after he was exposed as a fraud.

- Johnny Cash claimed to be part Cherokee to get a movie part. He played the great chief John Ross in a TV movie about the Trail of Tears, when Pres. Andrew Jackson forced them at gunpoint to give up their homes in Georgia and march 1,500 miles to Oklahoma. When the movie was over, Cash basically said he was funning us, that he wasn’t really a Cherokee. He went on with the rest of his life as a country singer.

One of the people who faked his way to the top was our Indian counselor at Cal State Hayward when I was there in 1972-74. He only lasted one year there. The Indian students would not go to him for help; there was a good counselor who was Chicano, and they went to him.

The fake Indian spent most of his year compiling a filmography of Indian films. The following year he got hired as the assistant director of the same program on another campus. After two years there, he got hired as the director of the same program on a third campus. He was the Peter Principle in action.

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New year, new career: 6 steps to achieve career success

Career coach and author Ford R. Myers offers a fool-proof plan to find a new job or fix your current one in 2013

HAVERFORD, Penn. – Americans make all kinds of New Year’s resolutions - to lose weight, to stop smoking, to spend more time with family and friends. However, you rarely hear anyone say, “I’m committed to improving my career situation.”

Ford R. Myers, career coach, speaker and author of “Get The Job You Want, Even When No One’s Hiring,” has developed a simple six-part “Power Plan” designed to help individuals make the most of their current career or find a new and more satisfying one in 2013.

1: PERFORM AN INTERNAL AUDIT: A comprehensive internal audit combines an individual’s personal values, a list of adjectives outlining their “ideal employer,” and a “perfect job description.” Candidates should also do an honest assessment of their appearance, to ensure that they are optimizing “first impressions.”

2: UPDATE YOUR JOB SEEKER’S “TOOL KIT”: It’s vital to have a well-rounded “portfolio” of self-marketing tools to generate best results. Every job seeker needs written accomplishments, verbal presentations, professional biography, list of references, testimonial comments, letters of recommendation, and other items along with the resume.

3: NETWORKING: THE CORE OF YOUR SEARCH: Develop a networking

contact list, positioning statement (where you’ve been professionally), a departure statement (what happened to your last job), list of targeted companies, and a networking meeting agenda. Follow a structured, proven methodology for generating one-on-one networking meetings, and also attend select networking events and functions consistently.

4: INTERVIEWING FOR SUCCESS: BETTER INTERVIEWS GET BETTER OFFERS: Job seekers need to provide the interviewer with accurate, relevant accomplishment stories about job performance and tangible results. The interviewer needs to share the story of their company, describe the position in question, and explain specifically how they want you to fit into this picture. When the candidate’s experiences and assets match-up with the employer’s needs and problems, that’s called a job offer!

5: SALARY NEGOTIATIONS: THE RULES OF THE GAME: Salaries are fully negotiable, even in the current economy. Perform extensive salary research and defer salary discussions until an offer seems imminent. Discuss salary only with the person who has the authority to negotiate the salary and hire you. And remember that your prior salary has nothing to do with the salary you may be offered in a new position.

6: PRACTICE PERPETUAL CAREER MANAGEMENT: Keep all your success documents up to date. Put time aside every week for active networking. Research and be aware of the competition. Offer to help people in your network. Build and maintain a high professional

profile via social media, association involvement, speaking and writing in your niche. Always be engaged in career management, regardless of what your work situation is currently. Don’t wait for a career crisis to arise before you “get yourself in gear!”

“Despite the current economy, many people are moving up the corporate ladder or finding excellent new careers. Those who are achieving success know how to ‘play the game’ and are fully prepared for every step of the career development process. Anyone can find career success in 2013 by properly executing the steps I’ve outlined above,” adds Myers.


For more information and other useful tips for achieving career success, visit <http://www.getthejobbook.com>.

Ford R. Myers is President of Career Potential, LLC. His firm helps clients take charge of their careers, create the work they love, and earn what they deserve! Ford has held senior consulting positions at three of the nation’s largest career service firms. His articles and interviews have appeared in many national magazines and newspapers, and he has conducted presentations at numerous companies, associations and universities. In addition, Ford has been a frequent guest on television and radio programs across the country.

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DAS Adjunct Reading Specialist 2013
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Note: Not all medicine wheels are the same from tribe to tribe. This medicine wheel is intended to be a general representation and does not refer to a specific tribe's symbol of the four directions.



EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY

Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY

The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY

Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY

Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY:

All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrrc.org

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013

All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

JANUARY 16

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Program is hosting a stalking awareness booth in the MCN Community Services building from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

JANUARY 18

Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa Winter Stomp Dance, Old Central Middle School, 210 N. Main, Broken Arrow. Host Ground - Duck Creek. Food served 6-7pm. Dance 7:30-10:30 pm. Free & Open to the public. Info call Tim Shadlow 918-382-2217 or Trenton Rabbit 918-588-1900, Ext. 3219.

JANUARY 19

Ardmore Benefit Powwow, Heritage Hall, 220 West Broadway, Ardmore. Gourd dancing starts at 1pm. Phone: 580-226-4155 Email: ardmorebenefitpowwow@yahoo.com

JANUARY 20

Idle No More Round Dance Rally 2:00 pm, Utica Square, Tulsa Okla.

JANUARY 25

Idle No More Land of the Redman 11:00am - 2:00pm at Oklahoma State Capitol

JANUARY 26

Glenpool NASA stomp dance from 7-11 at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center. Located off HWY 75 and 141st in Glenpool. Booths are free with an item donation. For more info contact Kristi Collington at 322-9500 x 568 or 569

JANUARY 28 - APRIL 15

Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

FEBRUARY 8-10

Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Glenpool Conference Center, behind Walmart, HWY 175 & 121st, Glenpool. Now accepting entries! www.tulsaindianartfestival.com

FEBRUARY 9

Seminole Nation Honor Guard Powwow, St. Gregory University, Shawnee, Okla. Co-host Comanche Little Ponies. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm. Grand Entry at 7pm. Contest Powwow. Info call Rex Haily 405-382-3900 or Alex Fish 405-432-7858.

FEBRUARY 9

Mid-America All-Indian Center's Valentine Powwow, 650 N Seneca St. - Wichita, Kansas.

MARCH 2

Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

MARCH 23

Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds 11400 613 Road, Miami. Info call 918-542-2441 or Email: shawneechild@shawnee-tribe.com Website: www.shawnee-tribe.com

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria

Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com Website: www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website: www.tonkawatribe.com

JUNE 29, 2013

Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 26-28

Kihekah Steh Powwow, Javine Hill Rd (52 W Ave) & 193 St. North, Skiatook, Okla. Info call Donna Phillips 918-381-7996 Email: dphillips2002@gmail.com

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Creek Nation reinvents communications department

The department has evolved into Mvskoke Media, a multimedia arm providing information through print, radio, television and printing services.

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

OKMULGEE, Okla. – A group of elders came together last week at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, for the monthly senior luncheon. Visiting at tables set up for them in the community room, they shared the news of the day, both personal and otherwise.

Among them that day, Toske Willits, a Tulsa resident and retired pipe fitter, enjoyed the conversation and catching up with friends. He also likes to catch through television and Native News Today. He rarely misses an episode, even if he's not always pleased with it.

"I was mad at them," he said.

The syndicated, Mvskoke Media-produced program, which airs at 1 p.m. Saturdays on the local CW Network, covered the community center's Veterans Day presentation in November.

When it aired, "they gave us 30 seconds," Willits said, laughing. He didn't hold it against the show, however. When you're covering the news of a nation once a week in a half-hour segment with commercials, you fit in as much as you can.

NNT covers the news of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as well as the rest of Indian Country with reports and interviews of newsmakers. It also highlights

Muscogee citizens and their accomplishments and histories - which is what Willits likes best.

"I like to find out what's going on, especially when I know somebody (involved)," he said.

Mvskoke Media makes programs like NNT for Willits and others in the tribe. MM is also behind Mvskoke Radio and Muscogee Nation News, the bi-monthly tribal newspaper.

Along with a graphics and printing services division, the three programs that make up Mvskoke Media push to provide news and information to all segments of the tribe's population.

"We encompass all forms of media for the tribe," said Christina Good Voice, Mvskoke Media manager. Formerly the multimedia editor for the Cherokee Phoenix, she was recruited by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger.

For many years, the Muscogee Nation had a communications department that was a catch-all for many functions - from public relations to newspaper production to audio-visual tech services. In July, the communications department evolved into Mvskoke Media, a multimedia arm providing information through print, radio, television and printing services.

Public relations, the office working to promote a positive image of the organization, company or government it represents, is not a part of Mvskoke Media, Good Voice said.

"We (Mvskoke Media) don't play a public relations role. We (the tribe) have a division to do that. I have my people to tell a story from an unbiased perspective and to represent

all sides of it for citizens to make up their own minds. It's not our job to tell them what to think," she said.

Muscogee Nation News is a free, bi-monthly publication mailed to households of tribal members on request and

become so popular that it was made into a weekly program and later picked up by the local CBS affiliate, KQCW, and aired on Saturdays.

All three formats come together online at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's



MVSKOKE MEDIA | COURTESY
Host Jason Salsman interviews a subject for a story about adoption for Native News Today, a weekly TV news show produced by Mvskoke Media. The show airs Saturdays on KQCW, Tulsa's CW Network.

circulated at tribal government offices, clinics and at Indian community centers. Its estimated readership is about 21,000.

Mvskoke Radio, hosted by Gary Fife and Gerald Woffard, is a weekly source for tribal and community news, interviews with interesting people and a forum for discussion as well as a local event calendar. Listeners can hear it each week at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays on KOKL 1240 AM.

Woffard also shares hosting duties on NNT with Jason Salsman. The show first aired in 2006 as a monthly offering, but six months later had

official website, www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov. There, users from around the world with an Internet connection can find archives of past Mvskoke Media radio and TV shows and issues of the MNN newspaper. From the site, users can watch live webcasts of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council meetings as well as webcasts of big national events. In November, citizens at home watched stomp dances and presentations made at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., as

they were happening thanks to support from the Smithsonian Institutes.

Another aspect of MM is the graphic arts division that offers printing services not only to the tribe and tribal members but also to the public. It prints everything from brochures and business cards to banners and wedding invitations.

In late September, Mvskoke Media reached out again with a new format: Film. The first Mvskoke Film Festival opened at the RiverWalk Crossing movie theater in Jenks. The development property had recently been acquired by the tribe. Although the festival had fewer than 10 entries for screening, there are hopes the festival will become an important vehicle for Muscogee culture and filmmakers. It was also a big step in further separating Mvskoke Media from the tribe's old communications department identity.

Through social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter, Mvskoke Media's faces and brands are building more interest with daily posts of projects each outlet is working on and information on events and breaking news. Not only does the group's staff want the attention of its people but the attention of the public as well.

Principal Chief Tiger said communities beyond the Muscogee (Creek) Nation need to know what's happening in the tribe - especially as business opportunities open up.

"We're a very important player economic-development wise," Tiger said.

The tribe is a major employer in the region and the tribe (with its business enterprise arm) is a great contributor to the communities found

in and around the Nation's jurisdiction. The tribe has a definite impact on Oklahomans whether an individual is enrolled in the tribe or not.

"It goes beyond the jurisdiction because some of the times, some of what we're doing has gone nationally," he added.

Tiger is familiar with media and its capabilities. He served as editor of MNN, was the original host of radio's Native America Calling and was executive producer and host of Inside Native America, a current affairs show, for almost three decades on KOTV in Tulsa. He has made documentaries on tribal issues and culture for not only the Muscogee but for other tribes, too.

Mvskoke Media also represents a stake in diversification of the tribe's economic growth.

"We're finding out that we have support politically on some of the things we're doing, which is important because of funding possibilities. We're very excited right now. The avenues are just opening up," Tiger said.

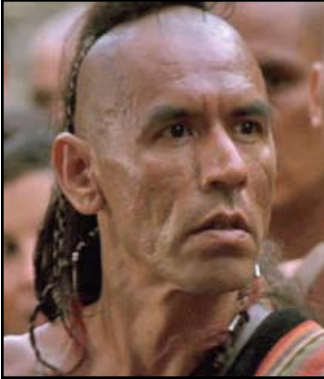
NNT host Salsman said he, too, hopes the show and other productions of Mvskoke Media will continue to attract a viewership outside of its tribe to show the world who Native Americans of the 21st century are.

"We want the people around us to know exactly who we are. If they know exactly who we are, they'll know our specific needs and specific requirements when it comes to getting things done on a legislative level, on a community-community level, on a level of teaching our culture and acceptance ... To us, it's undertaking a big responsibility," Salsman said.

Hall of Fame of Great Western Performers to induct Wes Studi

OKLAHOMA CITY – The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is set to induct Wes Studi into the Hall of Great Western Performers during its annual Western Heritage Awards on April 20.

The event honors principal creators in 16 categories of



THESTUDIGROUP.COM | COURTESY
Cherokee actor Wes Studi as Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans."

Western music, literature, television and film. For induction into the Hall of Great Western Performers, actors must have made significant contributions to the perpetuation of the Western in film, radio or theater.

Studi is a native Oklahoman, a Vietnam veteran, sculptor, musician, author, activist and full-blooded Cherokee who is a citizen of the United Keetoowah Band. He is best known for his roles in "Dances with Wolves," "The Last of the Mohicans," "Heat" and James Cameron's "Avatar."

Studi was born in Nofire Hollow in 1946 as the eldest son of a ranch hand. He spoke only Cherokee until he was 5 when he was sent to Chilocco Indian School in northern Oklahoma where he remained until graduating.

He was drafted into the Army and served 18 months

in South Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta. After an honorable discharge, Studi became involved with Native American politics.

Later he enrolled at Tulsa Junior College on the G.I. Bill, where he helped start a Cherokee newspaper. During his college years, he began teaching the Cherokee language professionally.

After college, he shifted his attention to running his horse ranch and became a professional horse trainer. In 1983, he began acting at the American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa. In 1988, he landed his first film role in "Powwow Highway" and made his TV debut in a small role in the ABC movie, "Longarm." It was after Studi's role in the 1988 PBS production "The Trial of Standing Bear" that he realized his passion for acting.

In 1990, he landed the role of the Pawnee warrior in "Dances with Wolves." Two years later, Studi was cast in the role he is most famous for as Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans." In addition to a long list of film credits, his varied interests include sculpture, tennis and jazz guitar. He is an internationally recognized expert in indigenous languages and has worked as a language consultant on several films. Studi, and his wife Maura Dhu, a singer and writer, live in Santa Fe, N.M., and perform in a local six-piece band called Firecat of Discord. They have one son.

For reservations or more information about the 2013 Western Heritage Awards, call 405-478-2250 or go to www.nationalcowboymuseum.org.

Singers preserve Ojibwe hymn tradition

DAN GUNDERSON
Minnesota Public Radio

WHITE EARTH, Minn. (AP) – When 30 people gathered recently for an evening service at St. Columba Episcopal Church, they recited liturgy like thousands of other church congregations.

But when they began singing, it quickly became clear that theirs was not a typical Minnesota prayer service.

A visitor would have recognized the melody to "What A Friend I Have In Jesus," but the parishioners sang in Ojibwe, thanks to the translation early missionaries made to help convert Indians to Christianity.

Music is a time-honored part of worship in most religions. For many Ojibwe people in northern Minnesota, hymns are much more than an expression of religious devotion. They represent a unique piece of Ojibwe culture tribal that members are trying to preserve.

White Earth Tribal Chair Erma Vizenor, one of the singers at the service, said it's critical to keep the Ojibwe language alive.

"This is one way we can keep it," she told Minnesota Public Radio News (<http://bit.ly/13ISAZr>). "We can use it, we can share it, we can build community with it."

Vizenor grew up with Ojibwe hymn singing and traditional spiritual practices. She remembers neighbors gathering in her grandparents' tiny two-room home to sing, and her grandparents explaining traditional ceremonies.

Although Christian clergy tried to end traditional Indian

spiritual practices, Vizenor said, the native-language hymns the church brought the reservation have become part of the complex Ojibwe culture.

Vizenor said she is active in the Christian church, but still comfortable with traditional spiritual practices. For her, both can reflect the spiritual traditions of Ojibwe people.

"Our spirituality is one of prayer," she said. "And even our traditionalism is not a religion, but it's a way of life in how we respect Creator and take care of whatever Creator has given us and take care of one another."

Today, some of the most active groups of hymn singers are on the White Earth, Red Lake and Leech Lake reservations. Vizenor

funerals and wakes, church services and community celebrations.

"Even our traditionalism is not a religion, but it's a way of life in how we respect Creator and take care of whatever Creator has given us and take care of one another."

After the church service, parishioners gathered in the basement for a meal, and about a dozen people lingered around a table to sing more hymns.

Charles "Punkin" Hanks hunched over his songbook, shoulder-length black hair framing his deeply lined face.

"I've been doing this for 33 years," said Hanks, 72. "They call me to go Red Lake, Cass Lake. Any place there's a wake, funeral. I go into the schools, wherever they want

can help out, I go."

Hanks said he began singing because he thought it was important to keep the tradition alive. For him, it's much like the drum used in traditional ceremonies.

"You know, the drum is a healing thing that kind of helps you out," he said. "Same with our songs. When we start singing like that it's a healing process for the people and a lot of people that hear that say it's a nice feeling they get from listening to our songs you know."

Hanks was part of a group that recorded Ojibwe hymns for the Smithsonian Institution collection a few years ago.

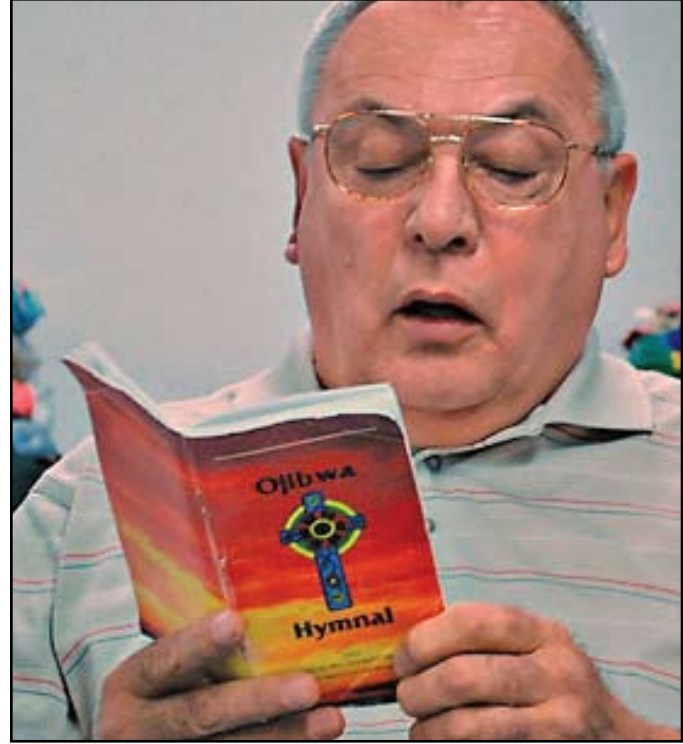
Ed Smith, who lives in Pine Point, a tiny community across the reservation, grew up with the Ojibwe hymns, but has been singing for about 12 years. Smith, 70, worries the tradition might be fading.

"I am somewhat concerned that the young people are not picking it up as readily as I would like to see," he said. "There is some concern this might be part of our culture that will be no more."

Although Smith doesn't speak Ojibwe, for him, the hymns are an important connection to culture.

A source of strength and comfort, the Ojibwe hymn tradition is certain to continue, Vizenor said.

"I've seen our singing be a part of social change. I've seen our singing bring our people together during times of the worst times of mourning and death. I've seen our singing celebrate on Easter morning," she said. "It strengthens us. I love the Ojibwe hymn singing. I hope I can sing it until I draw my last breath."



DAN GUNDERSON | MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO NEWS | COURTESY
Ed Smith says Ojibwe language hymns were part of his childhood and he wants to preserve the tradition which dates to 1868.

estimates there are more than 400 people who sing at

me to sing. It doesn't matter what denomination, where I

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement



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JANUARY 25, 2013

Tribal justice reform slow-going in Indian Country

■ Two and a half years after the signing of the Tribal Law and Order Act by President Obama, implementation of the law remains a mixed-bag on reservations nationwide.

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ACOMA PUEBLO, N.M. (AP) – In a desperate attempt to make it to the front door, Robin Sanchez crawled across the living room floor. Her ex-husband, fresh out of jail and intoxicated, used a wooden slat from one of the kitchen chairs to beat her.

She recalls how she was about to open the door when a loud crack resonated across her head. Blood gushed down her face as she heard her 3-year-old daughter cry: “Daddy, don’t be mean to Mommy.”

That September night in 2011 ended outside their home on the Acoma reservation in western New Mexico with

tribal police officers, guns drawn, ordering Kirby Sanchez to release the mother of his child from a chokehold.

Scenes like this are far too common in Indian Country, where violent crime rates on some reservations are 20 times the national average. Women are especially vulnerable; federal statistics show that nearly half of all American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced physical violence, sexual assault or stalking by an intimate partner and 1 in 3 will be raped in her lifetime.

That’s why hope was high in 2010 when President Barack Obama signed the Tribal Law and Order Act, an overhaul intended to give tribal leaders more authority to combat crime on their reservations.

Among other things, the law expanded the sentencing authority of tribal courts, allowed for the appointment of special U.S. attorneys to prosecute violent crimes on reservation land and revamped training for reservation police officers.

Two and a half years later, implementation of the law remains a mixed-bag on



ASSOCIATED PRESS

See **REFORM** Continued on Page 4

Robin Sanchez hugs her five-year-old daughter, Nicholle, as she talks about surviving domestic violence at her home in Acoma Pueblo, N.M.

Tulsa Indian Art Festival celebrates 27 years of honoring Native artists

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

GLENPOOL, Okla. – When the first Tulsa Indian Art Festival opened in 1987, organizers worked to create a showcase for Oklahoma’s Indian artists. Twenty-seven years later, the annual festival returns with a grander focus – support for and fostering of artists of the future.

Robert Trepp, chairman of the board of the National Indian Monument and Institute, said just as today’s artists need opportunities to fulfill their work, students of art also need support and encouragement to help them flourish and reach their creative goals.

“Regardless of grade level, we want to show students there are still opportunities for them to express themselves through various art media whether they see it as full-time employment or as something to pursue in their spare time.

The National Indian Monument and Institute, or NIMI, is the parent organization of the Tulsa Indian Art Festival as well as the American Indian Theatre Company.

The 27th Annual Tulsa Indian Art Festival will be Feb. 8-10 at the Glenpool



COURTESY

Kimberly Greene-Bugg, Oneida, is this year’s featured artist. Greene-Bugg won the People’s Choice Award at the 2012 Tulsa Indian Art Festival for this beaded backpack done in the Lakota style.

Conference Center, located off of U.S. 75 and 121st Street South in Glenpool. The festival opens with the art market opening at 11 a.m. Feb. 8. The schedule includes flute playing at noon followed by exhibition dancing and storytelling

with Mahenwahdose (part of the American Indian Theatre Company). The art market closes at 4 p.m. The big premiere night celebration begins at 7 p.m. and includes dinner, the juried art awards, scholarship awards and silent and live auction of art objects. Proceeds benefit TIAF’s scholarship fund for art students. Admission is a \$35 donation (reservation required). Corporate sponsorships are also available and include reserved tables. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard will present and retire the colors. Also scheduled to attend are Miss Indian Oklahoma Brittany Hill, Pawnee Nation Princess Hope Harjo and Tulsa Indian Club Princess Erica Moore.

The festival continues Feb. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day with more exhibition dancing, music and storytelling. Food concessions will be provided by Native- and locally-owned Autumn Star Catering, which specializes in Native foods such as meat pies, fry bread, grape dumplings, posole stew (spicy stewed pork and white hominy), venison roast and more. At the art market, look

See **ART** Continued on Page 8

DOI chief stepping down in March

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who oversaw a moratorium on offshore drilling after the BP oil spill and promoted alternative energy sources throughout the nation, will step down in March.

A former U.S. senator from Colorado, Salazar ran the Interior Department throughout President Barack



Ken Salazar

Obama’s first term and pushed

See **SALAZAR** Continued on Page 5

Case could shape Native American adoptions

JOHN HULT
Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The U.S. Supreme Court is set to decide a case that could outline the limits of a law on Native American adoptions written by a former U.S. senator from South Dakota.

That former senator, Jim Abourezk, said he hopes the high court can look beyond the emotion involved in

the case and affirm the importance of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act.

The case in question, Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, involves a 3-year-old Cherokee girl whose mother gave her up for adoption before birth after her father sent a text message consenting to a loss of his parental rights.

The father later said he

See **ADOPTION** Continued on Page 4

NM pueblo seeks return of ancestral lands

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – Leaders of an American Indian community in northern New Mexico are seeking the return of all land within the boundaries of the 89,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve, citing the area as a “spiritual sanctuary” and part of their traditional homeland.

Jemez Pueblo filed a lawsuit in federal court last summer to establish its aboriginal right to ownership of the property, and the pueblo has gained the support of tribes throughout New Mexico.

The preserve is home to vast grasslands, the remnants of one of North America’s few super volcanoes, and one of New Mexico’s most famous elk herds. The federal government bought the property from land grant heirs in 2000 with the goal of operating it as a working ranch while developing recreational opportunities for the public.

The government’s experiment in land management failed to become financially self-sufficient, and members of New Mexico’s congressional delegation have been working on a proposal that would call for the National Park Service to take over management.

However, Jemez Pueblo wants the

federal government to return ownership and control of the property.

The lawsuit describes the preserve as the “Jemez Holy Land” and talks about more than 800 years of occupation by the Jemez people. Archaeological surveys have identified dozens of pueblo villages, an extensive network of trails and thousands of ceremonial sites, agricultural fields and hunting traps, according to the lawsuit.

“All our songs, our traditional calendar refer to his area,” Pueblo Gov. Vincent A. Toya Sr. told the Albuquerque Journal in a recent interview. “It is so dear to

See **PUEBLO** Continued on Page 5



ASSOCIATED PRESS | FILE

Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown holds his 2-year-old daughter Veronica in this undated Associated Press photo. Brown won custody rights of Veronica on July 26 when the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled in his favor over Veronica’s adoptive parents, who are non-Indian.

Idle No More events gathering steam in Oklahoma

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Natives from across northeastern Oklahoma converged on Utica Square Sunday afternoon to show their support for the growing Idle No More movement.

Organizers originally planned to have the event in a grassy area in the shopping center’s west side outside of a Starbucks. However, less than 10 minutes before the flash mob’s scheduled start time, Utica Square security guards asked the group to move to a parking lot in the southeastern corner of the shopping center. After walking to the new location proposed by security, organizers moved their round dance to the sidewalk and easement near the Utica Square entrance at 21st Street and Wheeling Avenue.

“They’re attempting to push us to the back of the bus where no one will see us, hear us or ask questions,” JoKay Dowell said.

Like the original location for the Dec. 29 Idle No More event in

Oklahoma City, Utica Square is privately owned.

With Utica Square security and Tulsa police officers looking on, more than 50 people crowded



JoKay Dowell addresses the crowd Sunday afternoon, Jan. 20 at Utica Square in Tulsa.

around a drum to sing, dance and draw attention to issues facing Indian Country. Many children were among the attendees, including the toddler son of Fairfax, Okla., resident Jennifer Moses.

“I wanted him to be a part of this and to know what’s going on,” she said. “I thought it would be cool to be a part of this movement and see

history happen.”

Along with signs and banners featuring the Idle No More movement’s name and Twitter hashtag, some participants brought signs focusing on local issues, including several signs and fliers about the legal fight between the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation over Hickory Ground, a pre-removal capitol and sacred site.

“We’re not here to offend anyone,” Dowell said. “We’re here to uphold what our ancestors died for. We need to let our kids know why we’re here.”

Launched in Saskatchewan by four women, Idle No More is a grass roots group formed in protest of an omnibus budget bill that they claim would violate the treaty and Constitutional rights of First Nations groups, while weakening environmental protection laws and land removal policies. It has since grown to include efforts to draw attention to issues facing Natives in other countries, including the United States.

Additional Oklahoma Idle No More events are scheduled for Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Tulsa Creek Community Center at 8611 S. Union Ave.; Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Choctaw Casino in Durant, Okla.;

Jan. 28 at the state capitol building in Oklahoma City at 11 a.m.; Feb. 9 at Tulsa’s Brady Theater at 105 W. Brady St. and Feb. 10 at the Oklahoma City Downtown Library at 3 p.m.



LISA SNELL | NATIVE TIMES PHOTOS

A crowd of more than 50 Natives and non-Native supporters gathered for a round dance Jan. 20 at Tulsa’s Utica Square.

BIA mum on Osage Agency leader’s reassignment

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – An Oklahoma BIA office is, at least temporarily, under new leadership, although no one is saying why.

Earlier this month, Osage Agency superintendent Melissa Currey was reassigned to the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Wewoka Agency in Seminole for 120 days. Currey has been superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Osage Agency office since November 2004 and has worked at the agency for 28 years.

The BIA did not respond to email inquiries regarding the reassignment and Currey could not be reached for comment.

Despite public comments that it was a voluntary reassignment, the Osage Minerals Council adopted a resolution in support of Currey during its regular meeting Wednesday.

“What has been happening is that there

is some internal unrest within the BIA,” Osage Chief John Red Eagle said during the Jan. 11 Osage Mineral Council meeting. “Because of that, they’re wanting to move the superintendent to Seminole. From the chief’s office, we work very well with Melissa. She’s been courteous, business-like and we feel she has the best knowledge of the mineral estate.

“I feel that she would be a good asset on behalf of the Osages and the mineral estate. She is currently out on sick leave and has the support of the chief’s office on keeping her here.”

“It is not our place to tell them how to change it,” Osage Minerals Council member Sonny Abbott said. “They’ve got their own ways of changing things. I will be abstaining from even voting on this. We’re trying to micromanage them and we can’t even keep our own staff properly ran.”

Councilor Andrew Yates also abstained from

voting. Chairman Galen Crum voted no, saying it was “not a vote against Melissa, but a vote to not get involved in the BIA’s operations.”

Managed by the BIA, the tribe’s 1.4 million acre mineral estate is the largest area of single-tract mineral estate owned by a single entity in the country. In addition to the duties assigned to any other agency office, the Osage Agency is also responsible for processing and issuing drilling permits to oil and natural gas producers attempting to do business in Osage County.

During Wednesday’s OMC meeting, acting agency superintendent Rhonda Loftin said she is reviewing the permit process and how it could be potentially streamlined. Despite a 2010 settlement over allegations of federal mismanagement, the office still has a backlog of applications, taking up to 70 days to sign off on applications.

“Part of our backlog are that some of the applications were incomplete,” Lofton said.

“If (the application) is not all inclusive, the applicant will be notified that they have a couple of days to send in their missing info or it will be returned.”

Currey’s reassignment announcement also comes as tribal law enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conclude their investigations into the now-former members of the Pawhuska Indian Village’s five-man board. An audit released in September showed that more than \$800,000 in tribal funds allocated to the village were unaccounted for. An additional \$50,000 in tribal funds were used to cover utility expenses with the City of Pawhuska for village residents and entities, including more than 40 payments for bills accrued by Joe Don Mashunkashey, the chairman of the village’s governing five-man board at the time.

The village board is listed as an agenda item for the Jan. 30 meeting of the Osage Congress’ governmental operations committee.

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.

Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
 - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
 - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

For a claim form or to update your contact information:

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: www.IndianTrust.com

Lawmaker proposes American Indian museum funding plan

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – An Oklahoma City lawmaker is proposing two options to fund completion of the state's half-built American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, but opponents of the project – which has already cost the state \$63 million – question its future.

Sen. Kyle Loveless, R-Oklahoma City, plans two bond issue proposals to fund the project's completion. One proposal would authorize \$40 million in bonds to match \$40 million in pledged private funding.

Alternatively, Loveless has a measure to authorize \$32 million in bonds. That plan would come with instructions for fundraisers to come up with additional private money, he said.

Loveless said the potential for a nine-figure total state investment in the project is dwarfed by the economic development future the facility could bring to the state. Once opened, the center would bring in tourists, retail and redevelopment to a key part of Oklahoma City, he said.

That means the state would prosper and state government would get more tax revenue,

but nothing will happen unless the facility is completed, he said.

"We can't get any money back until we open our doors," said Loveless, a freshman legislator whose district includes the center, located on the Oklahoma River at the intersection of Interstates 35 and 40.

Another Oklahoma City senator said he would continue his fight against more bond money for the project.

"I almost regularly hear people say, 'Hey, whatever you do, don't spend any money on that museum,'" Sen. Cliff Aldridge, R-Oklahoma City, said. "I hear it a lot, and I agree with them."

In 2012, Aldridge organized opposition to legislation to fund the center. A bond bill for the facility narrowly passed the state Senate but failed in the House.

Since the Legislature adjourned, state Auditor Gary Jones released an audit criticizing the project for choosing highest-cost options when funding wasn't secure.

Aldridge said the project's cost, the audit and the failure of another bill in 2012 to reorganize the center under



Sen. Kyle Loveless, R-Oklahoma City

the state Department of Tourism and Recreation make him unwilling to support any more bond money.

"We've sunk almost a hundred million dollars of taxpayers' money in this thing, and we've gone way beyond what we said we'd do," Aldridge said. "I just think it's time to go back to the drawing board and say, 'Time out! We can't continue on this path. What can we do to spend a whole lot less money and get this thing operational and then pay as we go or expand as we go?'"

The project has benefited from three previous state bond issues totaling \$63 million, as well as \$14.5 million in federal funding and \$4.9 million

and 250 acres of land from Oklahoma City.

Aldridge said he wants to see the facility transferred to Oklahoma City to protect state taxpayers from future bills for the facility's upkeep and for its employees.

Loveless said the state audit showed no waste, fraud or abuse in the project, and he said the complaints about high-end choices misunderstand the center's aims.

"The mission of the center has always been to be a world-class, Smithsonian kind of institution," he said.

Other misconceptions continue to trouble the project, including the false notions that the state's Indian tribes asked for the facility but aren't paying for it and that the site could someday be used for a tribal casino, Loveless said.

The project was proposed by the state, not tribes, but the state's tribes have been generous in supporting it, he said. There is no possibility that a casino will be built at the site, he said.

To promote the center, Loveless has been taking legislators on tours of the site, and those meetings have made him cautiously optimistic

about the chances for a bond proposal passing this year.

"When people see it, it changes their minds," he said.

While the center has been discussed in the past in connection with other bond projects, including a proposed Oklahoma Historical Society popular culture museum, Loveless said he has no interest in linking the Oklahoma City project to any other efforts at this point.

"All these different projects ... need to be taken individually on their merits," he said. "If they have merit, in my opinion, they'll pass."

J. Blake Wade, Native American Cultural and Educational Authority executive director, said construction on the project was suspended when money ran out this past summer.

The state is paying \$52,000 a month for security and insurance for the facility, he said.

Donors have pledged \$40 million to match state funding to complete the project, but that money will disappear in May if lawmakers don't approve the state's portion of the needed money, Wade said.

Choctaw recycling program kicking off Feb. 1

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON

Native Times

POTEAU, Okla. – The Choctaw Nation is expanding its efforts to make southeastern Oklahoma more eco-friendly by opening a new recycling center.

Slated to open Feb. 1, the LeFlore County facility will be a hub for mobile rollaway bins located across the northeastern portion of the tribe's 11-county jurisdiction and will be able to compact materials. Open to all area residents and businesses, the new facility will be able to process all types of paper, cardboard, tin and steel cans, aluminum, plastics, printer cartridges and Styrofoam.

"We are taking possession of a building in Poteau this week," Director of Project Management Tracy Horst said. "We've hired our employees and will start training them Jan. 28."

Officially called Choctaw Project IMPACT, the new recycling center will create two new jobs and facilitate community education events, such as electronic waste collection days and collaborative projects with local groups. Funded by a three-year federal grant through the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans Social and Economic Development

Strategies office, Choctaw Nation officials expect the project's efforts to reach about 120,000 people in Poteau and its surrounding communities.

"We look forward to speaking and working with clubs, schools and businesses within the northeast area of the Choctaw Nation," Horst said.

The new location will the Choctaw Nation's second recycling center. In December 2010, the tribe opened a 30,350-sq. foot facility in Durant, Okla., the first public recycling facility within the tribe's jurisdictional area in southeastern Oklahoma. The Durant, Okla., recycling center currently processes more than 140,000 pounds of material each month.

Choctaw Nation recycling drop-off locations

Antlers Field Office, 400 1/2 SW St., Antlers

Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Road, Atoka

Broken Bow Field Office, 210 Choctaw Road, Broken Bow

Choctaw Gaming Center-Broken Bow, 1709 South Park Dr., Broken Bow

Choctaw Gaming Center-Grant, Rt. 1, Box 17-1 Grant

Choctaw Gaming Center-Stringtown, 895 Hwy 69/75 N. Stringtown

Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, One Choctaw Way, Tahihina

Choctaw Tribal Complex, 529 N. 16th, Durant

Choctaw Tribal Services, 304 Chahta Circle, Hugo

Choctaw Recycling Center, 3408 Wes Watkins Blvd, Durant

Choctaw Travel Plaza West, 4169 Choctaw Road, Calera

Coalgate Field Office, 103 E. California, Coalgate

Crowder Field Office, 707 Bond St. Crowder

Food Distribution, 100 Waldron Dr., Durant

Haileyville City Hall 510 Main St., Haileyville

Idabel Field Office, 2408 E. Lincoln Road, Idabel

Idabel Shopping Center, 1421 E. Washington, Idabel

McAlester Field Office, 1632 George Nigh Expy, McAlester

Old Casino, 3735 Choctaw Road, Durant

Poteau Health Clinic, 109 Kerr Ave., Poteau

Sears 615 Westside Drive, Durant

Spiro Field Office, 19400 AES Road, Spiro

Stigler Field Office, 120 N. Broadway, Stigler

Talihina Field Office, 201 Dallas St., Talihina

Travel Plaza East, 4015 Choctaw Road, Durant

Wilburton Field Office, 515 Center Point Road, Wilburton

Wright City Field Office, HC 74 Box 1760, Wright City

U of Arkansas first to launch tribal food systems program

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON

Native Times

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – The University of Arkansas School of Law is home to the country's first law school initiative to focus on tribal food systems, agriculture and community sustainability. The program launched Jan. 15.

Chickasaw Nation citizen Janie Hipp and Cherokee Nation citizen Stacy Leeds lead the initiative, which will provide educational and technical assistance to tribal governments, private entities and businesses engaging or entering the food sector. The program will also focus on agriculture, health and nutrition law and policy development, professional training of government and corporate leaders, and the formation of pipeline programs to engage students at the community level and foster them through four-year higher education institutions, law and graduate opportunities.

"The initiative we are embarking upon will support tribal governments and rural



Stacy Leeds

communities throughout our region and the nation in making investments in our nation's food and energy security," Hipp said. "When indigenous communities use their natural resources to create jobs and strengthen local communities, we all benefit."

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Hipp is the founder of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Tribal Relations.

The only Native American law school dean in the country and the first female Cherokee Nation Supreme Court justice, Leeds is one of five members of the Department of the Interior's Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES

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P.O. Box 411

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Suspended Blackfeet leader sues for reinstatement

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – A suspended member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council sued Wednesday to be reinstated, escalating an intra-tribal power struggle that has left a five-member faction to rule the governing body since August.

Cheryl Little Dog is one of five council members who have been suspended over the past year due to the infighting. One has been replaced, leaving five people to run the nine-member council after Chairman Willie Sharp declared an emergency on the reservation.

Little Dog’s attorney, Roberta Cross Guns, said the five remaining council members have misused the emergency designation to run the council without a full body. The Blackfeet Plan of Operations defines an emergency as a situation in which action is required to “alleviate an immediate danger to life and limb,” and that does not apply here, Cross Guns said.

“You don’t suspend people and let them hang in the wind forever, and essentially that’s what they’ve

done with these suspensions without any sense of process whatsoever,” Cross Guns said.

Tribal attorney Sandra Wells found out about the lawsuit from a reporter and did not have an immediate comment.

The majority faction headed by Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. has ruled since suspending Little Dog, Jay Wells and William Old Chief amid outcry last summer to reinstate two councilmen, including one who was indicted earlier this month on allegations he held an illegal big-game hunt.

Little Dog is suing Sharp, Shannon Augare, Forrestina Calf Boss Ribs, Earl Old Person and Roger “Sassy” Running Crane, claiming the five overstepped their constitutional powers in suspending her.

The lawsuit claims the five acted without a legal quorum present, did not expressly say what Little Dog had done wrong and did not give her a chance to defend herself. It also says there is no provision in Blackfeet law to suspend a council member, while expulsion requires the votes of all nine members.

The lawsuit seeks to reinstate

Little Dog with back pay, but further intervention is needed by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to force new elections or take other measures to quell the dispute, Cross Guns said.

“The Blackfeet are currently in a constitutional crisis,” Cross Guns said. “What are you, the BIA, as our trustees, going to do to get us through this?”

Suspended council members twice requested BIA intervention last year, but Sharp told officials the council desired no assistance and advised the federal government to stay out of tribal affairs.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Donald Laverdure said in a Sept. 7 letter to Sharp that his agency would continue to monitor the reservation because of the safety concerns raised by the dispute.

Jay St. Goddard was the first council member to be suspended last March over allegedly holding an illegal big-game hunt. A federal grand jury indicted him, along with suspended councilman Jay Wells and former Fish and Game director Gayle Skunkcap Jr. earlier this month on charges they held

illegal big game hunts on the reservation for country music stars and a film crew.

The three men have pleaded not guilty. Their supporters claim the charges are trumped up and an extension of the political infighting, while the five remaining members council sad in a statement that the indictments vindicated them for the turmoil that has surrounded the tribe.

Councilman Paul McEvers also was suspended in a separate action before the suspensions of Little Dog, Old Chief and Wells. The suspensions have prompted protests on the northwestern Montana reservation.

Two of the five remaining council members are also state legislators and are in Helena for the legislative session. The opening day of the session was attended by nearly two dozen Blackfeet tribal members, some of whom held signs of protest against Augare, a state senator, and Calf Boss Ribs, a representative.

If she is reinstated, Little Dog will attempt to expel Augare and Calf Boss Ribs alleged violations of the constitution, Cross Guns said.

ADOPTION

Continued from Page 1

had consented only to put pressure on the girl’s mother, with whom he has a rocky relationship.

The couple that adopted the girl took her home from the hospital as an infant, but said goodbye after the Supreme Court of South Carolina ruled that the act requires special consideration be granted Native American parents.

Abourezk told the Minnehaha County Democratic Forum recently that a case such as the one in South Carolina is difficult. A case such as that should not, he said, call into question the importance of a law intended to guard against a repeat of the loss of heritage historically associated with the adoption of Native American children.

He said he’s taken calls from across the U.S. asking him to support a change in the law based on the South Carolina case.

“The Indian tribes were being decimated by white social service agencies,” Abourezk said of the reasoning behind the law. “You don’t change a whole law because of one case. It’s worked fairly well most of the time.”

The decision by the Supreme Court to decide the adoption case that turns on the interpretation of the act comes barely more than a year after a series of reports on National Public Radio highlighting the law from a different angle.

The reports suggested that the state systematically was placing Native American children with white foster families and giving too few opportunities to Native American foster families.

The series prompted some in Congress to call on a coalition of tribes to prepare a report on Indian Child Welfare Act violations.

“It’s a terrible shame, what’s been going on (with foster families),” Abourezk said.

The high court’s decision to take up the South Carolina case came Jan. 4, days before the start of an Aberdeen witness tampering case that drew the attention of Native American activists and child welfare advocates.

Former Brown County Deputy State’s Attorney Brandon Taliaferro and court-appointed special advocate Shirley Schwab were accused of targeting a foster mother named Wendy Mette for wrongful prosecution after she and her husband’s Native American foster children reported that the husband had raped them repeatedly.

The husband, Richard Mette, was convicted of first-degree rape.

The state Division of Criminal Investigation accused Taliaferro and Schwab of tampering with a witness to bring charges of abuse and neglect against Wendy Mette. Those charges against the mother were dropped in 2011.

Last week, a judge dismissed the case against Taliaferro and Schwab in a courtroom filled with supporters of the pair.

Abourezk agrees with those who said the two were targeted by the DCI for “blowing the whistle about what was going on” with the adoption of Native American children.

Concerns about the Mettes surfaced twice in the 2000s, but they still were allowed to take in more children.

A DCI agent testified last week that the victim in the Mette case never changed her story or said Taliaferro or Schwab had pressured her into speaking.

Defense lawyer Mike Butler of Sioux Falls was asked after the trial why he thought the charges against the advocates were brought.

“I would like to know the answer to that,” he told the American News of Aberdeen.

Beadle County State’s Attorney Michael Moore said he respects the court’s decision but disagrees.

Yakama gas tax dispute now in federal court

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) – A fight between the Yakama Nation and the state over a deal that allowed the tribe to buy bulk fuel that was mostly free of Washington fuel taxes should be settled in federal court.

That’s according to a ruling last week by U.S. District Court Judge Lonny Suko.

At stake is nearly \$20 million in fuel taxes the state claims the tribe owes, The Yakima Herald-Republic reported Thursday.

Suko’s ruling also tossed out a previous Yakama Tribal Court ruling that blocked the state from canceling the agreement and enforcing state fuel tax laws on tribal land.

Suko decided the matter properly belongs in federal court because that is where a 1994 consent decree creating the agreement was established.

“This court retains exclusive inherent jurisdiction over a consent decree of which it cannot

be divested, even by a stipulation of the parties,” Suko wrote in his decision.

At issue is the state’s move in December to end the agreement because it contends the tribe is failing to submit required audits of fuel sales for the past five years. The state Department of Licensing said it made the move after negotiations to remedy the matter failed.

Responding to the move, tribal leaders sued the state in tribal court, where a judge ruled in favor of the tribe. Subsequently, the state took the matter to federal court.

Now the case is headed for a Jan. 31 hearing, when a federal judge will decide whether to allow the state to scrap the agreement altogether. The tribe has filed a motion in federal court seeking to dismiss the state’s complaint.

Without an agreement, tribal gas station owners could face paying the full state tax on all

bulk fuel purchased, state officials have said.

The Yakamas are exempt from state fuel taxes on their 1.2 million-acre reservation. However, the reservation is a checkerboard of tribal and nontribal land, and tribal fuel stations get a fair share of non-Indian customers. State officials have long argued that the tax exemption gives tribal station owners an unfair price advantage.

The agreement was an attempt to level the playing field by requiring non-tribal customers to pay the state fuel tax of 37.5 cents per gallon. Under the agreement, tribal station owners only paid the state tax on 25 percent of the total amount of bulk fuel purchased. Station owners are required to submit audits of sales to the state to determine whether additional fuel taxes are owed.



Harvey Pratt

C&A OSBI agent inducted into Law Enforcement Hall of Fame

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation forensic scientist Harvey Pratt, a citizen of the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribe is one of six law enforcement officers from across the state inducted into the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Hall of Fame recently.

The other five inductees are Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Gene Frusher; U.S. Marshal Clayton Johnson; and longtime Bethany police officer Bernard Schmidt. Two inductees were admitted posthumously - former U.S. Marshal in Indian Territory Eli Hickman Bruner and veteran OHP Trooper Dan Combs.

The six officers will join 21 men and women who have been inducted in recent years.

Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presided over the ceremony at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Judge keeps lawsuit against Urban Outfitters in NM

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – A federal judge has rejected a bid by Urban Outfitters Inc. to move a trademark infringement case against the clothing retailer and its subsidiaries out of New Mexico.

The Navajo Nation sued Urban Outfitters last year, alleging it violated trademarks on the

Navajo name. The tribe is seeking monetary compensation and an order permanently enjoining Urban Outfitters from using the name “Navajo” or variations of it.

Defense attorneys had argued that the eastern district of Pennsylvania where the company’s headquarters are located should handle the case because it would

be more convenient for witnesses and has taken up more intellectual property matters.

The U.S. District Court in Albuquerque agreed that the case would move along quicker in Pennsylvania. But it said that a change of venue merely would shift inconvenience to the Navajo Nation.

REFORM

Continued from Page 1

reservations nationwide.

From New Mexico to Mississippi, law officers, prosecutors, health care workers and victim advocates have been trying to chip away at the problem, but former U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat who was the chief sponsor of the legislation, admits change is slow.

“It can be life or death for people,” Dorgan said.

Many of the 566 federally recognized tribes have blamed a lack of funding for not moving ahead more quickly. While the federal government is providing some money for new programs, tribes are responsible for funding other elements of the law.

In other cases, tribal governments are still deliberating exactly how to institute the new measures, which require rewriting tribal constitutions or criminal codes.

“Tribes are thoughtful and careful

about how they go through this stuff. You don’t just change a criminal justice system overnight,” said John Dossett, general counsel for the National Congress of American Indians.

The Hopi of northern Arizona were among the first in the nation to increase criminal sentences under the law. The tribe spent 18 months updating criminal codes to create a new class of felonies that could result in more jail time for convicted offenders.

Few tribes have put together all the pieces required to boost jail time, but progress is being made on other fronts. The Southern Utes in Colorado are now contracting with the federal government to hold detainees. On South Dakota’s Rosebud Sioux reservation, tribal officials worked with the U.S. attorney’s office to create a diversion program to keep juveniles out of trouble.

In Montana, special teams made up of tribal and federal officials were established last summer to investigate sexual assault cases.

The FBI has added a dozen victim specialists, and about 30 more federal prosecutors are working in Indian Country than there were four years ago. In New Mexico, for example, an assistant U.S. attorney is stationed now in Gallup, near the Navajo Nation.

Nationally, more than 2,000 criminal justice professionals have been part of a U.S. Department of Justice training initiative to improve prevention, investigation and prosecution of reservation crime. And the Indian Health Service last year more than tripled the number of workers trained to respond to sexual assault cases and conduct forensic exams.

At the Acoma Pueblo, officials started a new wellness program that aims to rehabilitate repeat offenders who are on probation by monitoring their alcohol use, providing substance abuse and mental health counseling and helping them earn GED certificates or return to college.

“We’re changing our jail to more of a healing center and it’s working,”

Acoma Public Safety Director Glenn Kelsey said. “They’re getting educated, they’re getting jobs, and now they’re seeing what life is really about.”

Tribal officers are also funneling more cases that involve habitual offenders like Kirby Sanchez to federal courts, where punishments can be stiffer.

Sanchez had been arrested a dozen times between 1993 and 2010 on aggravated battery and assault charges. Each time he was released, the same story played out.

“He would talk to me ... and tell me he was so sorry for what he did,” Robin Sanchez said. “I thought, well, maybe if I stay and deal with it, I’ll be OK. I’ve gotten this far.”

After the 2011 attack, Sanchez was prosecuted in federal court and last month was sentenced to 37 months in prison, his longest jail sentence yet. Robin Sanchez is using that time to seek counseling in hopes of breaking the cycle.

Experts note that crime statistics in Indian Country are rising as

more people report crimes and data collection improves under the new law.

In New Mexico, federal prosecutors opened 43 sexual assault cases in Indian Country in 2010. In the first nine months of 2012, that number increased to 62, said New Mexico U.S. Attorney Ken Gonzales.

In Montana, such cases have increased by about 12 percent, said Mike Cotter, the U.S. attorney there.

Both Gonzales and Cotter said they are trying to get prosecutors into the field more often, despite the time and distance involved in traveling to remote reservations.

Others said real change will happen only when tribes are given the opportunity to assert full authority over prosecuting crimes that happen on reservation lands – including the ability to prosecute non-Indians.

Said Troy Eid, a former U.S. attorney from Colorado and chairman of the commission overseeing the law’s implementation: “By and large the system itself is flawed and will need to be changed.”

SALAZAR

Continued from Page 1

renewable power such as solar and wind and the settlement of a longstanding dispute with American Indians.

With Environmental Protection Agency chief Lisa Jackson also leaving the administration and Energy Secretary Steven Chu expected to depart, Obama will have a clean slate of top officials overseeing energy and environment issues.

In a statement Wednesday, Obama said Salazar had helped “usher in a new era of conservation for our nation’s land, water and wildlife” and had played a major role in efforts to expand responsible development of the nation’s domestic energy resources.

Salazar said in a statement that the Interior Department was helping secure “a new energy frontier” and cited an aggressive agenda to reform oil and gas leases, which he said had increased offshore drilling safety.

Under his watch, the Interior Department has authorized nearly three dozen solar, wind and geothermal energy projects on public lands that provide enough electricity to power more than 3 million homes, Salazar said.

Obama has vowed to focus on efforts to bolster renewable energy in a second term while continuing to expand production of oil and natural gas. He also has made it clear he will focus on climate change, an issue he has acknowledged was sometimes overlooked during his first term.

Former Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, a longtime Obama ally, is among those mentioned as a potential successor to Salazar, along with John Berry, director of the White House Office of Personnel Management. Berry is a former assistant interior secretary and the director of the National Zoo. Gregoire, whose term expired Wednesday, also is considered a candidate to head the Energy Department or the EPA.

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee and a favorite of the environmental community, also is believed to be under consideration for Salazar’s position.

Salazar, 57, entered the Senate with Obama in 2005. At Interior, he gained the most attention for his role in the drilling moratorium, a key part of the administration’s response to the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico that killed 11 workers. The resulting oil spill was one of the largest environmental disasters in U.S. history and led to the unprecedented shutdown of offshore drilling.

Business groups and Gulf Coast political leaders said the shutdown crippled the oil and gas industry and cost thousands of jobs, even aboard rigs not operated by BP PLC. But Salazar said the industry-wide moratorium was the correct call and that his ultimate goal was to allow deep-water operations to resume safely.

“Today, drilling activity in the Gulf is surpassing levels seen before the spill, and our nation is on a promising path to energy independence,” Salazar said in his statement Wednesday.

The moratorium was lifted in October

2010, although offshore drilling operations did not begin for several more months. Some Gulf Coast lawmakers continue to complain about the slow pace of drilling permits under the Interior Department, which renamed and revamped the agency that oversees offshore drilling in the wake of the spill.

Salazar also approved the nation’s first offshore wind farm, Cape Wind, off the Massachusetts coast.

On land, Salazar has promoted solar power in the West and Southwest, approving an unprecedented number of projects, even as oil and gas projects continued to be approved on federal land.

Salazar also oversaw a \$3.4 billion settlement resolving a dispute with Native American tribes that had lingered for more than a decade.

Salazar was the fourth Interior secretary to consider a 1996 lawsuit by Louise Cobell accusing the government of mismanaging land trust royalties for more than a century. But Salazar was the one who finally settled the case, said Jacqueline Pata, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians.

Salazar and Obama “made it very clear that one of the presidential campaign promises they were going to resolve was the Cobell lawsuit, and Salazar made it happen,” Pata said.

Throughout his tenure, Salazar tangled with oil companies. He criticized the George W. Bush administration for what he called a “headlong rush” to lease public lands, saying officials treated oil and gas executives as if they were “the kings of the world.” Soon after taking office, Salazar suspended 60 of 77 leases in Utah that had been approved under Bush, setting a confrontational tone that would continue the next four years.

Jim Noe, an oil executive and head of a shallow-water drilling coalition, said Wednesday that Salazar’s actions “hurt the industry, thousands of workers and the small businesses and communities that depend upon them. We hope that future leadership at the Interior Department will be able to take a more balanced approach to natural resource development.”

Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, said Salazar worked to strike a balance between responsible energy development and vital environmental protection.

Salazar set a sound foundation for solar and wind power on federal lands, while protecting areas where development does not make sense, Beinecke said.

Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune hailed Salazar for opening seven new national parks and 10 wildlife refuges while protecting Arctic areas from offshore drilling.

Salazar’s leadership “has helped put our nation on a path where protecting our natural legacy and wild lands is a priority, not an afterthought,” Brune said.

Salazar is the second of Obama’s two Hispanic Cabinet members to depart. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said last week she is leaving.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

property 12 years ago to create the preserve.

The preserve offers various activities for the public throughout the year – from hiking, fishing and hunting to snowshoeing – and the number of visitors usually is limited. Pueblo leaders have indicated they would continue with recreational opportunities if their land claim is successful.

Valles Caldera officials have declined to comment on the pending litigation, and the U.S. attorney’s office is expected to file the government’s response to the pueblo’s claim in federal court next month.

Jemez Pueblo also is conducting ethnographic and oral history studies of the preserve in addition to an archaeological assessment of the area.

COMMENTARY ▼

Indian country loses 3 great leaders

Notes from Indian Country



TIM GIAGO
Nanwica Kciji
© Unity South Dakota

Perhaps there are many people in America who do not know of the three great Native Americans I am about to eulogize, but all three passed away within two weeks of each other and all three were champions for Indian rights all of their lives.

Wayne L. Ducheneaux was an old time Indian cowboy who always wore his black Stetson hat and favored a rather large handle bar mustache. And as some of his adversaries found out, he was one tough S.O.B.

Ducheneaux served as President of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for a total of 8 years. His Lakota name was Itazipa Owotonia which translates to mean Straight Shooter and in his political career and later when he served as the director of the Cheyenne River Housing Authority, he lived up to that name. For 17 years he fought for good housing for his people locally and for all Native Americans nationally.

Ducheneaux was elected as President of the National Congress of American Indians in 1989 and when he arrived in Washington to oversee the largest and oldest Indian organization in America, he found it in shambles. With the help of a fellow tribal member, A. Gay Kingman, a dynamic lady, they saved NCAI from going under and turned it around so that to this day it is a powerful and viable organization representing most Indian tribes in America.

Ducheneaux was buried on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation on December 29, 2012.

David Lester served as

executive director of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes from 1982 until his death on December 26, 2012. Of CERT he said that its mission is to help tribes use their energy resources to develop their local economies and to assert their rights to self-governance and their sovereign rights to control their land bases. He said, “CERT has battled with many federal agencies in fulfilling its mission.” He was particularly effective in exposing the theft and corruption within the U. S. Government of the natural resources of the Indian tribes and the lack of orderly accounting of these resources.

He firmly believed that energy resources should lie with the tribe and that the federal government’s role should change from controlling the resources to supporting tribal efforts to manage their own resources.

Lester became a strong advocate of Indian businesses and initiated a national award for successful Native American owned businesses. He established The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development in Los Angeles and named the annual award the Jay Silverheels Achievement Award after the actor who portrayed Tonto in the Lone Ranger movies. I was fortunate enough to be given the Jay Silverheels Award on September 24, 1992.

Lester, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, died on December 26, 2012 in Denver, Colorado.

Charles Blackwell, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, was the first Native American ever appointed by his tribe to serve as Ambassador to the United States Government. At the time, Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby said that Mr. Blackwell “was a man of vision and well suited for the position.”

Blackwell earned a law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1972. He then worked for the American Indian Law Center and also served as the Associate Director of the Special Scholarship Program in Law for American Indians where he is credited with helping more than 700 American Indians and Alaska Natives

gain entrance in law schools all over the United States.

He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS where he served as the only Indian on that Council until 2001.

In an article Blackwell wrote for the Chickasaw (OK) Times he said, “Vision is a combination of wisdom, strength, courage, and generosity. Vision provides insight into the past so that you may define your present, vision gives you inspiration on what you want to do with your future. Your vision can bring you happiness, motivation, and self-determination for doing the best with and for yourself, your family and your Chickasaw people.”

Blackwell died in Washington, D. C. at age 70. A memorial service will be held for him on January 26, 2013 at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution.

I feel deeply the loss of these three great Native Americans. I knew each of them and as a newspaper publisher, often had the pleasure of reporting on their activities or of interviewing them for articles concerning important issues and happenings in Indian country.

Each had his own way of leading and they all believed in the old saying, “Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way.”

And as many government bureaucrat discovered over the years, if they stood in their path while they were trying to move their people forward they would not only be stomped into the ground by the three of them, but they would think they had been run over by a herd of buffalo when all of their friends and followers caught up to them.

These three good men and great leaders will be missed badly in Indian country and as Walter Cronkite used to say, “Hece tu welo.”

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, was born, raised and educated on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in the Class of 1991. He was inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2007. He can be reached at Unitysodak1@knology.net

PUEBLO

Continued from Page 1

us because it has everything in our heart up there.”

Albuquerque attorney Tom Luebben, who represents Jemez Pueblo in the land claim lawsuit, told The Associated Press last week that he believes this is the first time a tribe has sued the federal government under the Quiet Title Act to recover unlawfully appropriated Indian title lands.

The argument is that the pueblo’s aboriginal title to the land was never extinguished despite the government purchasing the

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Sequoyah National Research Center seeks interns for summer 2013

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The Sequoyah National Research Center is seeking three tribally affiliated student interns for summer 2013 during the period of June 1 through July 31. Interns will work at least 25 hours per week in the center doing basic archival and research work under the direction of SNRC staff.

The SNRC at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock houses the papers and special collections of tribal individuals and organizations, the world's largest archival collection of newspapers and other periodicals published by tribal individuals and organizations, and the Dr. J. W. Wiggins Collection of Native American Art, consisting more than 2,500 artworks, a massive archive documenting the collection, and a reference library on indigenous art of more than a thousand volumes.

The goal of the American Indian Student Internship Program is to provide students an experiential learning environment in which to acquire an understanding of the value of archives and the research potential of the collections of the center and to engage in academic research and practical database building activities related to tribal culture, society, and issues. To qualify for an internship, students must: be tribally affiliated, have completed at

least 60 college hours, and be in good standing at their home institutions of higher learning.

Applications should include a unofficial copy of the student's academic transcript, a reference or sponsor letter from the head of the student's major department or from another relevant academic official, and a statement of no more than one page expressing why the intern experience would likely be beneficial to the student's academic or career goals.

To assist the student in meeting expenses during the two-month tenure of the internship, the Center will provide on-campus housing and \$2,000 to defray other living expenses.

Students interested in applying should send applications or inquiries by e-mail to Daniel F. Littlefield at dflittlefiel@ualr.edu or Robert E. Sanderson at resanderson@ualr.edu or by U.S. mail to: SNRC, University Plaza, Suite 500, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2801 S. University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. The SNRC must receive applications by March 15. The SNRC staff will select three applicants and three alternates. Staff will notify students of their decision by April 1.

For more information on the SNRC and its work, visit <http://ualr.edu/sequoyah>.

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The US Attorney's Office is seeking to fill one Paralegal Specialist position in its Civil Division. Beginning salary is \$38,790 per year. See vacancy announcement 13-OKW-826068-DE at www.usajobs.gov (Exec Office for US Attorneys). Applications must be submitted on-line or by fax. See "How to Apply" section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Lisa Engelke, HR Specialist, (405) 553-8777. Open application period is January 22, 2013 to February 4, 2013.

Licensed Attorney

WYANDOTTE NATION is currently seeking letters of interest for a licensed attorney to be the District Court Judge for Wyandotte Nation Court. This position is a part-time position and requires the candidate to be extremely knowledgeable in tribal law. A valid license to practice law in the state of Oklahoma is required. Native American preference will be observed. Please send your letter and resume to: Wyandotte Nation, c/o Jan Everley, Justice System Coordinator, 64700 E. Hwy. 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370



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Licensed Attorney

THE WYANDOTTE NATION is currently seeking letters of interest for a licensed attorney to be the Prosecutor for the Wyandotte Nation Courts. This position is a part-time position and requires the candidate to be extremely knowledgeable in tribal law. A valid license to practice law in the state of Oklahoma is required. Native American preference will be observed. Please send your letter and resume to: Wyandotte Nation, c/o Jan Everley, Justice System Coordinator, 64700 E. Hwy. 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370

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The US Attorney's Office is seeking one or more applicants for an Assistant U.S. Attorney position which may be assigned to the Civil Division, Criminal Division, or Appeals Unit. Salary is based on the number of years of professional attorney experience. Applicants must possess a J.D. degree, be an active member of the bar in good standing (any jurisdiction), and have two (2) years or more legal experience post-J.D. See vacancy announcement 13-OKW-829000-A-01 at www.usajobs.gov (Exec Office for US Attorneys). Applications must be submitted on-line. See "How to Apply" section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Lisa Engelke, HR Specialist, (405) 553-8777. Announcement is open from January 28, 2013 through February 4, 2013.

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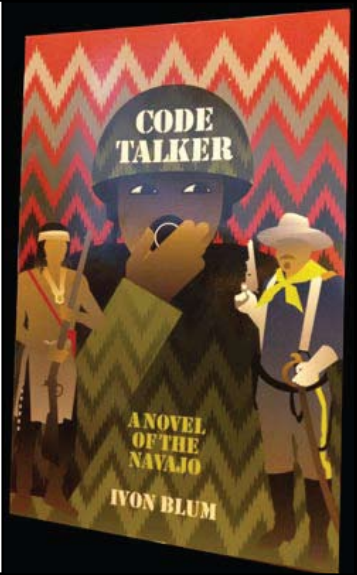


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*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY

Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY

The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY

Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY

Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY:

All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013

All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

JANUARY 26

Idle No More/Save Hickory Ground rally, 3pm, Tulsa Creek Community Center, 8611 S Union Ave., Tulsa

JANUARY 26

Glenpool NASA stomp dance from 7-11 at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center. Located off

HWY 75 and 141st in Glenpool. Booths are free with an item donation. For more info contact Kristi Collington at 322-9500 x 568 or 569

JANUARY 26

Idle No More, 7 pm, Choctaw Casino, Durant

JANUARY 28

Idle No More rally, 11:00am at Oklahoma State Capitol

JANUARY 28 - APRIL 15

Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

FEBRUARY 8-10

Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Glenpool Conference Center, behind Walmart, HWY 175 & 121st, Glenpool. Now accepting entries! www.tulsaindianartfestival.com

FEBRUARY 9

Sac & Fox Powwow Committee benefit Ko Thi Ke No Ki (Indian Dice) Tournament, 2pm, Sac & Fox Community Building, 5 1/2 miles S of Stroud. \$5 entry fee per person. Winner gets 1/2 of entry fee pot. Plus Box Supper - prizes for best decorated.

FEBRUARY 9

Seminole Nation Honor Guard Powwow, St. Gregory University, Shawnee, Okla. Co-host Comanche Little Ponies. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm. Grand Entry at 7pm.

Contest Powwow. Info call Rex Haily 405-382-3900 or Alex Fish 405-432-7858.

FEBRUARY 9

Eagle & Condor Idle No More rally, time TBA, Brady Theater, 105 W. Brady St., Tulsa

FEBRUARY 9

Mid-America All-Indian Center's Valentine Powwow, 650 N Seneca St. - Wichita, Kansas.

FEBRUARY 10

Idle No More, 3pm, Oklahoma City Downtown Library

MARCH 2

Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

MARCH 16

Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 22

2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 23

Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribalclub.com

redriverintertribal.org

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds 11400 613 Road, Miami. Info call 918-542-2441 or Email: shawneechild@shawnee-tribe.com Website: www.shawnee-tribe.com

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com Website: www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website: www.tonkawatribe.com

JUNE 29, 2013

Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 26-28

Kihekah Steh Powwow, Javine Hill Rd (52 W Ave) & 193 St. North, Skiatook, Okla. Info call Donna Phillips 918-381-7996

Early peek at OSU Native artist oral history project to be shown at TIAF

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

GLENPOOL, Okla. – Oklahoma Native artists past and present will speak about their lives and work in a series of recorded interviews that will be shown during the 2013 Tulsa Indian Art Festival in Glenpool.

The Oklahoma Native Artists Oral History Project is the work of the Oklahoma State University Library’s Oklahoma Oral History Research Program. Julie Pearson-Little Thunder, visiting assistant professor, spent the last two years interviewing Native artists to learn about their histories and passions for their individual crafts. Among the 45 artists interviewed thus far are watercolor artist Norma Howard (Choctaw, Chickasaw), painter and printmaker Benjamin Harjo Jr. (Seminole, Absentee Shawnee) and Shan Goshorn (Cherokee), who works in multiple media.

Pearson-Little Thunder said she has made a strong effort to visit with

and interview artists of the elder generation, including the late Cherokee potter Anna Belle Mitchell, a Cherokee National Treasure. The oral history collection in addition includes a talk with celebrated Cherokee painter Bill Rabbit, who died last year.

Visitors of the Tulsa Indian Art Festival will find Pearson-Little Thunder at the festival from 2-5 p.m. Feb. 9-10. She will have preliminary clips of several interviews to share with the public, meeting the project’s goal to educate about the state’s native artists. The official launch of the project is scheduled for a later date in 2013.

The festival will be at Glenpool Conference Center, near U.S. 75 and 121st Street South in Glenpool. For festival details, go to www.tulsaindianartfestival.com or call (918) 298-2300.

To learn more about the Oklahoma Native Artists Oral History Project and the OSU Library, go www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/.



COURTESY
Haudenosaunee Family by Oneida artist Kimberly Greene-Bugg is the featured art work at this year’s Tulsa Indian Art Festival.

ART

Continued from Page 1

for Autumn Star to serve Indian tacos with ground buffalo meat, “Spirit Soup,” baked sweet potatoes and roast turkey with green beans and new potatoes among the menu items.

Approximately 50 artists are anticipated to appear at the art market with booths set up in the conference center and many with pieces entered in the juried show competition. This year’s featured artist is Kimberly

Festival for a beaded backpack she titled “Ascending” and created in the style of the Lakota tribe. She was also winner of the Best New Artist Award, the winner chosen by the artists at the market, not by the jury.

Her traditional work titled Haudenosaunee Family (or Long House Family) is this year’s featured piece – two dolls representing a woman holding an infant daughter and a young girl. The theme of family and community runs through the piece to share how women form strong bonds in their community, and how, traditionally, clan mothers of the Oneida and other Six Nations

Young Chickasaw trombonist performs with Chicago Symphony Orchestra

DANA LANCE
Chickasaw Nation
Media Relations

CHICAGO - When 12-year-old Chickasaw Steven Warren first picked up a trombone, he had little idea how music would shape his life.

Now a 23-year-old graduate student at Northwestern University, Warren is working hard to make his dreams come true.

Playing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for nine days last spring and again during Thanksgiving were major highlights in his life.

One of his teachers at Northwestern invited him to participate.

“Chicago Symphony has always been the ensemble I have looked up to and being asked by my teacher to play in the ensemble was a dream come true,” Warren said. “It was amazing.”

The request was unique, considering only one or two Northwestern students each year are asked to perform with the Symphony.

“I went to the Symphony to pick up my music and they thought I was there to pick up music for the Youth Orchestra,” he chuckled.

He performed two different programs with the Symphony; a Pops-type concert at the “Keys to the City” Festival, and a traditional program.

To prepare, he poured his concentration and focus into the music.

“I listened to that music constantly,” he said. “There was no way I was going to make a mistake in that first rehearsal.”

During that first surreal rehearsal, he performed with his heroes.

“I’ve looked up to everyone

in that orchestra since I started playing, and to be able to make music with them was an incredible opportunity,” he said. “They were all super nice, too. Some of the nicest people I have ever met.”

After three rehearsals, it was time for the concerts.

Nerves set in.

“Usually I don’t get nervous for orchestra performances,” he said. “I am in the back the orchestra and play my part, but the first rehearsal and first concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, I was so nervous, and my heart was pounding. You just can’t make a mistake.”

Warren’s summer performances ended, but he is still setting and working toward goals.

His ultimate dream is to work with his role model, Mark Lawrence, a trombonist with the San Francisco Symphony.

“Once I heard him play, I said ‘I want to sound like him.’”

Warren was able to work with his idol the past summer at the The Music Academy of the West Summer School, in Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Music Academy of the West has trained the next generation of great classical musicians by providing opportunities for advanced study and intensive performance in a supportive environment.

At the Academy, he was selected to serve as a mentor to a high school student and he gained personal satisfaction from that experience.

His ultimate dream is to play in any orchestra in California, where the music scene is thriving, and teach at a university.

Starting on the Path

When Warren was introduced to the “band” concept, the sixth-



CHICKASAW MEDIA RELATIONS | COURTESY
Steven Warren, Chickasaw, says playing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra was a major highlight of his life. His dream is to play for an orchestra in California’s thriving music scene and teach at a university.

grader wanted to play drums.

But, on try-out day, he was told he could choose between the trumpet and the tuba.

“So I chose the medium, the trombone.”

In high school, he began to take band seriously.

“I just loved it and I didn’t want to do anything else.”

He contemplated studying chemical engineering and psychology.

“But there was no choice,” he said. “Music was the thing to do.”

After graduation, he went on to study at Oklahoma State University.

While a student at Oklahoma State, Warren made history as a member of the OSU Trombone Octet and Quartet.

The group won several awards including the 2008

Down Beat Student Music Award for Classical Group, ITA Remington Trombone Choir winners, and the Seretean Trombone Quartet. The 2010 OSU Trombone Quartet was selected best of 29 quartets from around the world.

While an undergrad, he was also selected to participate in the 2011 CCM Spoleto Program at the Festival dei due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy.

His advice to younger band students is to “keep doing it” and “don’t give up.”

Warren is the son of Wayne “Fuzzy” and Gwen Warren, of Ponca City, Okla.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Oklahoma State University and is currently a Master of Music candidate at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Ill.

Greene-Bugg, Oneida, of H o r n b e a k , Tenn. Greene-Bugg won the People’s Choice Award at the 2012 Tulsa Indian Art Festival for a beaded backpack she titled “Ascending” and created in the style of the Lakota tribe. She was also winner of the Best New Artist Award, the winner chosen by the artists at the market, not by the jury.

Her traditional work titled Haudenosaunee Family (or Long House Family) is this year’s featured piece – two dolls representing a woman holding an infant daughter and a young girl. The theme of family and community runs through the piece to share how women form strong bonds in their community, and how, traditionally, clan mothers of the Oneida and other Six Nations

from the Iroquois Confederacy were consulted in important matters of war and treaties.

Haudenosaunee Family has been donated by the artist for the auction during the Feb. 8 premiere night event.

Greene-Bugg, who has been an artist all her life, said she takes her inspiration and style from other artists and from many tribes.

“Mine (her approach) is multicultural with Native American art because I wasn’t brought up on the reservation, and the people – the artist that took me under their wing, per se – were not just Iroquois people. They were Kiowa, Lakota, Cherokee. That’s one of the main reasons I did the back pack, to pay tribute to the Lakota,” Greene-Bugg said. “... I’m always looking for new places to go, explore and get inspiration from other artists. Us artists, we like to stick together.”

She’s also looking forward to returning to Tulsa for the upcoming art festival and visiting with artists there.

“They were phenomenal. Some of the leading artists in the country were there. A lot (of them) I had seen (their work) before in New York and Washington, D.C. ... It’s always a joy to find new artists and know what their take is on tribal culture.”

Trepp said the festival has reached out to other young artists through area high schools, colleges and universities to encourage them to enter work in the show in a variety of categories such as mixed media, drawing, sculpture and more traditional media such as pottery and weaving.

Fine arts and traditional arts blend into a fascinating mix at one show that continues to draw both established and rising artists of the highest caliber and of the style of the

woodland and southeastern tribes.

“We’ve really had an impact on other art festivals around us,” Trepp said. “We were the first art festival to really highlight the arts of the Eastern woodlands, especially the Southeastern Indians,” he said.

Just as Taos and Santa Fe are renowned for art markets specializing in the art of Southwestern tribes, the Tulsa festival is synonymous with woodland motifs and expressions of the tribes who called the southeastern section of the U.S. – and later Indian Territory – home.

There’s something for everyone at this year’s show, Trepp said.

“There’s no reason for anyone to think that they are unwelcome because their budget doesn’t allow for them to buy some massive piece of art,” he said.

Learn more about the festival at www.tulsaindianartfestival.com or call (918) 298-2300.

Project NATIVE Native Americans Teaming in Visual Empowerment

FREE Training & Assistance for Native Americans with LOW VISION

If you or a friend have been diagnosed with a low vision problem such as glaucoma or macular degeneration this training can teach you ways to continue doing the things you enjoy. “The classes changed my life!” exclaimed one participant.

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- Paid \$35 per workshop to help with transportation expenses
- Free lunch and snacks
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Call (918) 456-5581 or 616-1158 for an application and workshops in your area.

Project NATIVE is funded by the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 4 FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Court puts American Indian status in jury’s hands

■ **A two-part test determines who is Indian for purposes of federal jurisdiction for crimes on reservation land, which result in stiffer penalties than in tribal courts for the same offenses.**

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – An Arizona man serving 90 years in prison on assault and firearms charges will have that sentence significantly reduced after a federal appeals court ruled that prosecutors did not prove he was a member of a federally

recognized American Indian tribe, the first step to charging him with felony offenses that occurred on reservation land.

The split decision from the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals overturns Damien Zepeda’s conviction on eight of nine charges, leaving a single count of federal conspiracy that carries a maximum

sentence of 5 years. Zepeda is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community, but the court said in a recent ruling that prosecutors did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that his bloodline of one-quarter Pima and one-quarter Tohono O’odham derived from a tribe recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Tohono O’odham Nation of Arizona is on the BIA’s list of federally recognized tribes, as is the Gila River Indian Community, which is made up of Pima and Maricopa Indians. But Zepeda’s enrollment certificate didn’t specify whether Tohono O’odham referred to the Arizona

See **JURY** Continued on Page 4

American Indian gang trio face racketeering trial

AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – Three members of a violent American Indian gang known for terrorizing people from the Twin Cities to reservations in greater Minnesota, Wisconsin and beyond went on trial Tuesday in what authorities call one of the largest gang cases to come out of Indian Country.

Wakinyon Wakan McArthur, 34, – an alleged leader of the Native Mob – and two alleged Native Mob “soldiers,” Anthony Francis Cree,

26, and William Earl Morris, 25, are accused of being part of a criminal enterprise that used intimidation and violence to keep the gang in power. They face multiple charges, including conspiracy to participate in racketeering and attempted murder in the aid of racketeering.

Jury selection began Tuesday in federal court and is scheduled to continue Wednesday.

Prosecutors said the case is important partly because of its size – 25 people were charged in a

See **TRIAL** Continued on Page 4



CHIP SOMODEVILLA | COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

The Violence Against Women Act became law in 1994 and was extended in 2000 and 2005. It expired in 2011.

Rival casino tribes forge alliance

MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) – At sunrise one day last spring, the leaders of the Connecticut tribes that own two of the world’s largest casinos stood together at the site of a 1637 massacre, commemorating the Pequot War attack in which one of their tribes took part in nearly wiping out the other.

The Mashantucket Pequots, who own the Foxwoods Resort Casino, hold the event annually to celebrate

survival from the slaughter of so many of their forebears. Last year was the first time they invited a member of the Mohegan Tribe, which owns the Mohegan Sun casino, to participate in the fireside ceremony in Mystic, Conn.

“That was pretty big,” Mohegan Chairman Bruce “Two Dogs” Bozsum said in an interview last month with The Associated Press.

The commemoration was a symbolic moment in the close

See **ALLIANCE** Continued on Page 5

Dems try again to extend anti-violence bill

JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Congressional Democrats have renewed their push to revive the key federal program that protects women against domestic violence. They sought to diminish Republican objections that blocked passage of the legislation last year by removing a provision that would increase visas for immigrant victims of domestic abuse.

The Violence Against Women

Act became law in 1994 and was extended in 2000 and 2005. But it expired in 2011 and, although both the House and Senate passed VAWA bills last year, the two chambers were unable to settle their differences.

“No woman should ever be forced to suffer in silence in the face of abuse, and Democrats are committed to expanding protections for America’s women and giving law enforcement the tools they need to enforce the Violence Against Women Act,” House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said as dozens

of House Democratic women, and several men, gathered Wednesday to reintroduce the legislation. She said they had 158 Democratic sponsors.

The main points of contention last year were provisions in the Senate-passed bill that increased protections for American Indians, gays and immigrants.

Legislation that was introduced in the Senate Tuesday, and the identical bill House Democrats unveiled Wednesday, retain those protections

See **BILL** Continued on Page 4



NIGA | COURTESY
Members of the Native American Women Warriors color guard attend the Navajo Nation reception in Washington, D.C. The color guard marched in the inaugural parade Jan. 21.

Tribal Nations presence felt during Obama’s inauguration

Tribal leaders and organizations host many events to honor the second term of Barack Obama and Joe Biden

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION
Media Release

WASHINGTON - Over the course of the Inaugural weekend tribal representatives and organizations hosted meetings and receptions in honor of the second inauguration of President Barack Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden.

On Saturday January 19th, the National Indian Gaming Association hosted a one-day meeting on the topics of tribal sovereignty and the trust responsibility, taxation, and economic development at the Crystal City Marriott. More than 70 tribal leaders and officials were present to hear from Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Congressman

Dan Kildee and Congressman Markwayne Mullin, a member of the Cherokee Nation, the Department of the Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, National Indian Gaming Commission Chairwoman Tracie Stevens, and other representatives of governmental organizations and advocacy groups. Tribal leaders listened to a strong and optimistic message for Indian Country as they begin their work in the New Year.

The California Nations Indian Gaming Association, the Great Plains Indian Gaming Association, the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association, the Lummi Nation, the New Mexico Indian Gaming Association, the Quinault Indian Nation, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation partnered with NIGA to host this meeting.

For the full wrap up of all of the Native Inaugural Events visit <http://bit.ly/11RTy0C>

Osage Agency blasted during meetings

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – Osage County residents, ranchers and petroleum professionals took aim at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Thursday and Friday during a monthly federal committee meeting.

Established as part of a \$380 million settlement of a federal lawsuit alleging mismanagement of the Osage Nation's 1.4 million acre mineral estate, the Osage Negotiating Rulemaking Committee is part of a two-year process to review and update the policies concerning oil and natural gas drilled within the Osage Nation's boundaries in northern Oklahoma. Its members include representatives from the Osage Minerals Council, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior.

Managed by the BIA, the tribe's \$4 billion mineral estate is the largest single-owner mineral estate in the country. In addition to the duties assigned to any other BIA agency office, the Osage Agency is also responsible for processing and issuing drilling permits to oil and natural gas producers attempting to do business in Osage County.

The office, which currently does not have any form of electronic reporting available for producers, has taken up to 70 days to issue a drilling permit, creating an administrative backlog and delays for oil and natural gas exploration companies attempting to do business in Osage County.

Those delays led to an Osage County judge issuing a temporary restraining order Jan. 18 to prohibit Chaparral Energy from drilling horizontal and disposal wells along Skiatook Lake on the restricted property of two Osage Nation citizens. In his decision, Associate District Court Judge

David Gambill specifically blamed the Pawhuska Agency and its sloppy administrative processes.

“They are escaping review over there at the Agency,” Gambill said. “They have to follow the rules like everyone else. And if they’re not going to, I will restrain them.”

Several petroleum producers and professionals shared similar frustrations with the committee Thursday and Friday, contending that the agency's history of mismanagement isn't entirely in the past.

“The BIA simply can't keep up with the demands,” Tulsa-based petroleum geologist Bob Jackman said. “They’re understaffed and under-qualified. You’ve got a superintendent making all of these permit decisions without a backstop to help guide those decisions. The lack of geological professionals in the office is crippling.”

Rhonda Loftin, acting superintendent of the BIA's Pawhuska Agency, has said that her staff is working to streamline the approval process and reduce the backlog. Electronic reporting options are among the policy changes being discussed by the committee, but would not be implemented for at least six more months.

In addition to permit application issues, several land owners aired their grievances over the lack of environmental and safety enforcement at and around well sites. With the Osage Mineral Estate under the management of the BIA, state-provided protections afforded to land owners in other parts of Oklahoma are largely unavailable to Osage County residents.

“Our main issue is that we’re having to police production sites,” Osage County Cattlemen's Association president Jeff Henry said. “That means a loss of our time and our money.



Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

“We don't resent the oil field being here, but we have got to work on building a better relationship.”

The cattlemen's association members account for more than 1 million acres of Osage County's 1.475 million acres of ranch and grazing land. Ninety-eight percent of its members' properties have at least one oil and natural gas production site.

“Human health and safety is our primary concern,” said Bob Hamilton, director of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, located in northern Osage County. “The recent drilling of three horizontal wells on the preserve has created a serious threat – hydrogen sulfide gas.

“Last summer, two of our researchers experienced respiratory problems while working in the vicinity of a flare stack on the preserve. In both instances, medical attention was sought and there are concerns that the illnesses were due to exposure to the flaring emissions.”

Also known as a flare stack, flaring is the practice of burning off excess natural gas released by pressure relief valves and creates hydrogen sulfide gas as a byproduct. Exposure to the gas can cause dizziness, nausea, headaches, eye irritation and breathing problems within a few breaths.

“There aren't any regulations on the books regarding hydrogen

sulfide emissions,” Henry said. “There isn't anyone out here trained with how to deal with it when or if it causes a fire, which means it will most likely be a rural fire department answering that call. What do you think is going to happen when those boys come out here in their cowboy boots to answer that call?”

Along with hydrogen sulfide emissions, several ranchers and landowners are also dealing with salt water running off from drill sites into drainage ponds and freshwater wells.

“For 37 years, I've tried to get the BIA to enforce their policies as written and they never have,” said Nona Roach, a land owner and independent oil and gas accountant from Avant. “I've had 10 ponds fill up with salt water from drill sites, making it to where we couldn't even use our own land.

“I have to wonder: will the BIA and DOI enforce these new policies when they've failed this far to enforce their old ones?”

“Without adequate action, this will get worse,” University of Tulsa environmental engineering professor Kerry Sublette said. “Right now, you're basically in a race to the bottom in terms of environmental quality, as Osage County has one of, if not the worst oil and natural environmental record in North America.”

Although BIA head Michael Black offered reassurances that attendees' comments did not fall on deaf ears, several were less than enthusiastic about the lack of a concrete plan at the close of Friday's meeting.

“I'm not picking on you guys, but you heard their concerns,” Osage Mineral Council member Dudley Whitehorn said to the federal representatives. “Are we going to take action any time soon? We have some real problems up here that can't be ignored or swept under the rug.”

Cherokee Nation's revised voting districts ruled constitutional

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. —A judge has ruled the Cherokee Nation can move forward with its new 15 voting districts.

Cherokee Nation District Court Judge Bart Fite ruled Wednesday that a vote made by the majority of Tribal Council members last July to move from five voting districts to 15 districts is constitutional.

The new districts will start with upcoming June 22 council elections.

Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree said redistricting decisions are hard for any governing body, “but they are policy choices better left to legislative bodies to develop and not for a court to decide.”

The Cherokee Nation Tribal Council consists of 17 elected positions with staggered four-year terms. Beginning with the 2013 election, there will be one council member now serving each of the 15 districts. Currently, three members serve per district. Two at-large council seats will experience no change.

Two separate lawsuits over redistricting were filed in court since September. Anglen et. al vs. Cherokee Nation was filed by five Tribal Council members opposing the 15 districts. It was dismissed earlier this month. The plaintiffs were allowed to enter an opposition opinion for the judge to weigh in his decision.

The other lawsuit was the basis for the judge's ruling. It was filed on behalf of the majority of Tribal Council members asking the judge to rule on whether its redistricting vote in July followed the legal channels within the Cherokee Nation Constitution.

Nine Tribal Council seats are up for election this year. March 4-7 is the filing period.

Many Cherokee citizens will have new voting districts. For boundary maps, citizens should check with the Cherokee Nation Election Commission at 918-458-5899 or visit <http://www.cherokee.org/OurGovernment/Commissions/Election/Default.aspx>

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.

Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
 - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
 - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government's records as of September 30, 2009.

Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

For a claim form or to update your contact information:

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: www.IndianTrust.com

Indian Country bills filed for Okla. legislative session

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – With more than 1,110 bills filed for the upcoming Oklahoma state legislative session, several are aimed directly at Indian Country.

Filed by state Rep. Wade Rousselot (D-Wagoner), House Bill 1116 would grant legislators and councilors of federally recognized tribes immunity from arrest or questioning by state law officials while their tribe's legislative branch is in session. The waiver would not apply to felonies, treason or breach of the peace.

According to campaign finance reports, Rousselot's 2012 re-election campaign received \$9,750 in contributions from tribal governments,

including \$3,000 donations from both the Cherokee Nation and Chickasaw Nation. The Osage Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Choctaw Nation also appear on the representative's donor list.

Rousselot's district in Wagoner County straddles the boundary between the Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee Nations. He did not respond to emails and phone calls requesting comment.

Two pieces of legislation from Rousselot's colleagues in the House of Representatives would promote the state's chief negotiator with tribes to a cabinet-level post.

House Minority Whip Chuck Hoskin Sr. (D-Vinita) and Native American caucus co-chairman Paul Wesselhoft (R-Moore) have filed separate identical



House Minority Whip Chuck Hoskin, D-Vinita

bills that would make the state's Native American liaison the Secretary for Native American Affairs and cap the office's annual salary at \$65,000.

The position was created in during

the 2011 legislative session when the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission was abolished. It was not filed until June 2012 when Gov. Mary Fallin appointed Kaw Nation citizen Jacque Secondine Hensley. Similar legislation was filed in during the 2012 session and amendments were attempted during the 2011 session to include the provision in the position's original job description.

Members of the Oklahoma legislature's Native American caucus, Hoskin is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and serves as chief of staff for Principal Chief Bill John Baker. Wesselhoft is a citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and also serves in his tribe's legislature.

The 2013 legislative session begins on Feb. 4.



The Cherokee Nation assumed operations and management of the W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah on October 1, 2008. The tribe is raising salaries for more than 200 employees at the hospital and its eight tribal health centers.

Cherokee Nation raising pay for more than 200 health employees

JULIE HUBBARD
Cherokee Nation News Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The Cherokee Nation is raising salaries for more than 200 employees at its eight health centers and W.W. Hastings Hospital to better compete with urban areas for health care professionals.

Nurse practioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, doctors and dentists working in Cherokee Nation health facilities on average will see an 11 percent pay increase being phased into their paychecks Feb. 10.

The pay increase – a \$5 million impact – is part of a comprehensive plan by Principal Chief Bill John Baker, Tribal Council and health administrators to improve quality and access to tribally operated health facilities. New and expanded Cherokee Nation health centers are also in the works.

"I am committed to providing quality health care services to Cherokee Nation citizens," Principal

Chief Bill John Baker said. "That starts with hiring and retaining talented health care providers. It has been proven that Native people respond better when our health care needs are in the hands of Native physicians, Native nurses and other health care professionals who understand our culture and values."

Connie Davis, executive director for health services, said it had been several years since the tribe had conducted an evaluation of its health provider compensation to gauge whether it was competitive.

An internal committee recently reviewed Cherokee Nation salaries against other tribes and sources, including the Oklahoma Hospital Association and Merritt Hawkins & Associates, and found an adjustment was needed.

"We are committed to our providers and want the highest quality care for our citizens. This is a step to improve our efforts," Davis said. "More than 200 contracts will need to be modified to reflect the higher earnings, and our goal is to

implement as many as we can by Feb. 10."

The Cherokee Nation's Tribal Council was not required to vote on the salary increase. However, during a Jan. 14 committee meeting, members approved a vote of confidence for the health professional salary increases.

Tribal Council Member Dick Lay, District 4 representative from Ochelata, praised the pay adjustment.

"I am proud to have worked on bringing talented health care professionals to the Cherokee Nation system. However, to retain those hires, we must remain competitive in salary or lose our staff to the open market," Lay said. "Finding the right candidate to hire is critical, but retaining that person is equally as important. With the pay adjustment, we took the first step in securing our health care team for the long term."

The salary increase will come from the health division's operating budget.

Skeletal remains in Lake Eufaula 'prehistoric'

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) – The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation says skeletal remains found at Lake Eufaula are from prehistoric times.

Officials on Tuesday said a nearly complete skeleton was recovered and forensic experts determined the remains were from one person. Initially, officials reported that there were bones from two people.

Tulsa television station KJRH reports that investigators were initially suspected foul play because a cinder block wrapped with a cable was found weighing down the bones. But Pittsburg County Undersheriff Richard Bedford says the weight could be from an old trotline and its presence coincidental.

Officials are contacting local Indian tribes to arrange a proper burial.

Park Service seeks input on proposed Chickasaw Museum

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) – The National Park Service and the Chickasaw Nation will hold public meetings in Mississippi and Oklahoma on plans for a proposed Chickasaw Museum and Cultural Center.

The Chickasaw Nation has an interpretive center in Sulphur, Okla. Natchez Trace Parkway officials plan to use the Oklahoma center as a model of what could be built on a smaller scale in Tupelo.

The first meeting is Jan. 30 at 4 p.m. in the Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center in Tupelo. The second meeting is Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Chickasaw Nation headquarters in Ada, Okla.

The Parkway has allocated \$1.1 million for the planning, design and environmental phase of the project.

The Parkway and tribe envision a center with replicas of historical Chickasaw living quarters and other interpretive exhibits.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES
Attn: Subscriptions
P.O. Box 411
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0411

Phone: (918) 708-5838
Fax: (888) 689-4873
Email: Info@nativetimes.com

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"Where every day is Indian Day"

View of organ donation shifting in Native culture

ALLISON JARRELL
Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) – Jerry Clown knows that asking for help can be difficult when it means asking someone to make a sacrifice on your behalf.

In Clown’s case, that sacrifice is the donation of a healthy kidney.

A member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Clown was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease in 2001 while living in Eagle Butte. He has been receiving chemotherapy ever since. The disease, known as Wegener’s granulomatosis, also triggered the onset of diabetes and caused his kidneys to fail in 2008.

Clown has been on dialysis for about five years now, and is patiently waiting for a kidney on an Avera transplant list.

Despite his condition, he makes a point of avoiding asking his friends and family members to consider being a donor.

“It’s really hard for me to ask someone to be a donor, because it’s a big sacrifice that they have to give up,” he said.

It’s also difficult for Clown and many other Native Americans suffering from kidney disease to ask for help because in Native American circles, donating an organ is often viewed as not only a physical sacrifice, but a spiritual one as well.

EMPHASIZING EDUCATION

Living organ donation in Native American communities is a current topic of research by Nancy Fahrenwald, an associate professor at South Dakota State University’s College of Nursing.



Nancy Fahrenwald

Since 2003, Fahrenwald and a team of researchers, tribal elders and health care professionals have been working to bridge the gap between the decline in Native American health and living organ donation by distributing culturally relevant educational materials.

Fahrenwald’s latest research will focus on collecting information from Native American dialysis patients on three reservations in South Dakota and providing educational materials about the process, benefits and risks of living kidney donation. She’ll also focus on how to have a conversation about organ donation with family members.

“There are many people on dialysis who could still benefit from a transplant who have never talked to their family

about considering being a living donor, or even about the possibility of getting a donor,” Fahrenwald said.

Her research will be funded by a five-year grant awarded to Sanford Research by the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities. The grant will also bring health care professionals and tribal communities closer together with the establishment of a Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health in Sioux Falls. Fahrenwald will serve as a principal investigator for the center’s research on, culturally targeted education on living kidney donation.

TRADITIONAL BELIEFS VS. CURRENT NEEDS

“Culturally, Native Americans believe that when we leave this life and go onto the next, we need to have everything with us,” said Karla Abbott, nursing professor at Augustana College. “But with the increase in Native American health disparities – kidney disease, obesity, renal disease, and hypertension – we’re going to need more organ and tissue donors.”

Abbott is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux, and as a part of Fahrenwald’s research team, she has a unique perspective. Abbott has taken special notice of the declining health of her people from the viewpoint of a health care professional and an enrolled tribal member.

More than 112,000 people are on the organ transplant list, and a disproportionate number of those are Native Americans, according to Fahrenwald. Chronic kidney disease is a major health problem in Native American communities, and compared to the county’s white population, Native American’s are 2.8 times more likely to experience End Stage Renal Disease related to diabetes, according to 2010 U.S. Renal Data.

“Some of this is due to genetics, but a lot of it is change in lifestyle,” Abbott said. “Colonization changed our whole way of life. We were a people that lived by the water. We were very active. But all of those (environmental) changes have really led to our health demise.”

During past research projects, Fahrenwald and her team used traditional storytelling and educational media to present the idea of organ donation to Native American communities in a respectful way. They reached out to Native college students with technology-based media and spoke with tribal elders about what kind of messages they wanted to convey.

Fahrenwald consulted traditional healers, who acknowledged that diseases that lead to kidney failure are very real in their communities. The healers concluded that through prayer and ceremony, the spirits of the people who chose to donate or receive an organ could be at rest.

Storytelling was used to encourage Native American people to help each other through the Lakota virtue of generosity. Abbott said that in the old days, one’s place in society was not determined by what you owned, but by what you gave away.

“For a successful organ donation,

you have to have a good match,” Abbott said. “In order for Native Americans to have successful kidney transplants, you need Native Americans donating organs and getting tested. This isn’t just limited to kidneys, but renal disease is our biggest problem bay far.”

These past research projects have helped set up Fahrenwald’s new work – talking to dialysis patients to gather their opinions about what needs to be improved in the realm of education and what information they would find useful.

“It takes time to build relationships. I’m not a tribal member, but as a researcher, I need to honor tribal



Karla Abbott

members’ time and not conduct research for the sake of research,” Fahrenwald said. “We need to conduct research that makes a difference for the tribe.”

So far it seems that her research has indeed been making a difference. Fahrenwald’s previous study with Native American college students resulted in 20 percent of all participants registering as organ donors.

The goal of her research in 2013 will be to bring resources to dialysis centers on reservations that lack adequate patient and family education. Normally patients like Jerry Clown would have to travel to larger cities like Bismarck or Rapid City for that kind of information.

Clown hopes that more education will help people understand the process of being a donor. Until then, he has yet to find a donor match.

“I would really appreciate if a lot of people were donors, because people that are on dialysis, they want to live longer and keep living,” Clown said. “There’s hope when someone says, ‘I would like to get tested, Jerry, what kind of blood type are you?’”

Americans have a 1 in 10 chance of suffering from kidney disease, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For Native Americans, the risk doubles.

More than 112,000 people are on the organ transplant list, and a disproportionate number of those are Native Americans, according to Nancy Fahrenwald, associate professor at South Dakota State University’s College of Nursing.

BILL

Continued from Page 1

but remove one provision that would increase what are called U visas available to immigrant victims.

House Republicans last year said that was unconstitutional because the Senate imposed a fee to pay for the visa expansion and all revenue-raising measures must be initiated by the House.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said he still supported the visa increase but “we introduce the bill today without that provision in order to remove any excuse for House inaction.”

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Tuesday that the Leahy

bill, cosponsored by Republican Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho, will be a legislative priority this year.

The 1994 act provides funding for legal assistance for victims, enforcement of protection orders, transitional housing aid and youth prevention programs. Supporters say the annual incidence of domestic violence has dropped more than 50 percent since VAWA became law.

Obstacles still remain to an agreement. In particular, Republicans have objected to a measure in the Senate-passed bill that would allow Native American courts to prosecute non-Indians accused of committing abuses on Indian land. The House bill that passed last May also omitted Senate references to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders.

JURY

Continued from Page 1

tribe or the collective population in Arizona and Mexico. The court said it would not make that determination on behalf of the jury.

A two-part test determines who is Indian for purposes of federal jurisdiction for crimes on reservation land, which result in far more stiff penalties than in tribal courts for the same offenses. The first requirement is that a defendant’s blood line must derive from a federally recognized tribe.

The Arizona U.S. Attorney’s Office said it was reviewing the decision but had indicated to Zepeda’s attorney, Michele Moretti, that it would seek to have the case reviewed by a larger panel of the court, she said.

“I expect there to be a fight and push back,” Moretti said. “I think it’s something that will be tested.”

A 2008 indictment against Zepeda charged him with conspiring with his brothers to assault his former girlfriend and two others on the Ak Chin reservation south of Phoenix. Authorities say they were armed with a handgun and a shotgun.

The appellate court has ordered that the district court resentence Zepeda on the federal conspiracy charge, which it said applies equally to everyone, everywhere within the United States.

Zepeda’s brother had testified that their father was American Indian and their mother Mexican but Moretti said her client never held himself out to be American Indian. While the government could prove that his bloodline is linked to a federally recognized tribe through witness testimony, Moretti said she doesn’t believe it can establish that he had cultural, economic or social ties to a tribe – the second part of the test.

Former federal prosecutors called the ruling bizarre and said it adds a level of complexity to already complex federal Indian law.

“It’s a little like asking a jury whether the sun rises in the

morning and sets at night,” said former Arizona U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton. “There’s no debate about the fact that this individual is a Native American and subject to federal jurisdiction and trial. He won this case on a technical reading of the law and, as a result, will receive a greatly reduced sentence.”

Charlton and former Colorado U.S. Attorney Troy Eid, who are not involved in the case, said prosecutors would be prevented from retrying Zepeda because of double jeopardy.

Dissenting Judge Paul Watford said the court should have found as a matter of law that Zepeda’s bloodline does indeed stem from a federally recognized tribe and remanded the case to the district court for a new trial, not reverse his convictions.

The majority said even if the court was permitted to make that determination, “which we are not,” it still would have been compelled to largely overturn Zepeda’s conviction on grounds that the government did not prove it.

“As Zepeda’s argument indicates, this is a factual inquiry and one that was not decided by the jury in this case nor could it have been as it was never presented to the jury,” Judge Richard Paez wrote for the majority.

Carole Goldberg, a law professor at the University of California-Los Angeles, said the ruling is part of a line of federal decisions that struggle with the definition of “Indian” for federal criminal jurisdiction and make addressing the cases more difficult for prosecutors. She said there already is widespread concern in Indian Country that federal prosecutors are too reluctant to pursue reservation crimes, and federally recognized tribes will be surprised to learn that their status as sovereign nations is being questioned.

The lack of clarity “suggests a need for rethinking the entire system of Indian Country criminal justice,” said Goldberg, co-editor and co-author of Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian Law.

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1

57-count indictment – and because the racketeering charge is a tool rarely used against gangs, indicating this is an attempt to take down the entire enterprise.

“This is a major case on many levels,” U.S. Attorney’s Office spokeswoman Jeanne Cooney said. “It’s one of the largest, if not the largest case dealing with Native American gangs.”

The 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment says the Native Mob is one of the largest and most violent American Indian gangs in the U.S., and is most active in Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as Michigan, North Dakota and South Dakota. It is made up of mostly American Indian men and boys, and started in Minneapolis in the 1990s as members fought for turf to deal drugs. The Native Mob is also active in prison.

Tom Heffelfinger, a former U.S.

attorney in Minnesota who has worked to curb crime in Indian Country, said racketeering charges were appropriate in this case. While the statutes outlawing racketeering – when multiple people commit crimes together in order to benefit a criminal enterprise – were created to go after groups like the Mafia, Heffelfinger said the statute is well-suited to go after any organized criminal activity.

But Frederick Goetz, McArthur’s attorney, said this case doesn’t fit the bill.

“There is, and there was, no racketeering enterprise,” Goetz said. “The interesting part of the case will be sorting the myth from the reality.”

Goetz said many of the allegations aren’t part of a conspiracy, but are sporadic, individual acts carried out by disaffected, alienated youths who have dealt with tough circumstances on reservations.

The Native Mob has about 200 members, according to the indictment, and is recruiting

new ones. Heffelfinger said some recruitment happens at powwows, as recruiters use Native American culture and the “warrior mentality” to attract children.

The indictment paints a picture of a structured group that held monthly meetings where members were encouraged to assault or murder enemies, or anyone who showed disrespect.

Authorities say McArthur was a leader or “chief” of the Native Mob, and directed other members to carry out beatings, shootings and the armed home invasion of a rival drug dealer. The indictment said that in 2010, he ordered fellow gang members to shoot at a rival’s house to keep him from dealing on Native Mob turf, authorized the assault of a prison inmate in 2008 and recruited new members from prison.

He also, according to the indictment, wrote a letter from prison to a fellow Native Mob member in 2004, describing a plan to hold people accountable, and saying

“Discipline and promote fear is the quickest way to progress our case.”

The indictment also said that in 2010, Morris and Cree tried to kill a man by shooting him multiple times while he held his 5-year-old daughter. The indictment said it was done at McArthur’s behest, and in retaliation because the man was cooperating with authorities.

Goetz had no comment on specifics in the indictment, but said the Native Mob is about keeping people safe.

“Are we saying this is the Boys and Girls Club? No. But I think the actual purpose of this is to decrease the violence rather than increase the violence,” Goetz said.

Christopher Grant, a national Native American gang specialist in South Dakota, said there are hundreds of American Indian gangs nationwide. Most, he said, are loosely organized and might have as few as five members.

“I consider Native Mob to be the most organized, violent and predatory street gang structure in

Indian Country,” Grant said. “There are many other Native American gangs ... but Native Mob stands out in terms of their victimization of Native American people in both tribal and non-tribal communities.”

Though racketeering cases against Native American gangs are rare, they are not unprecedented.

In Arizona, three members of the East Side Bloods in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community are awaiting trial on racketeering crimes. And in 1997, five members of the East Side Crips Rolling 30s, also in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community, were convicted on racketeering charges.

The Native Mob trial is expected to take several weeks as prosecutors plan to call about 300 witnesses – including current and former Native Mob members, crime victims and members of rival gangs. Evidence could include recordings collected by undercover informants and prison calls, according to court documents.

ALLIANCE

Continued from Page 1

relationship between the two chairmen. With their rival casinos each struggling through slumps, the men see each other not only as friends, but also as allies in a relationship that may be a key to their tribes' future prosperity.

Although the tribes once kept their external affairs entirely separate, Bozsum and the Pequots' chairman, Rodney Butler, have sought to speak in a single voice on issues of mutual interest. In joint talks with Connecticut's governor, they have won concessions including a reduction in the presence of state police at the casinos to lower the amount they have to reimburse the state.

They are also exploring the possibility buying goods and services together to reduce costs for their massive casinos, which are only seven miles apart in rural southeastern Connecticut.

"It was only good fortune, or good misfortune, that both of us were going through the same economic challenges at the same time," Butler said in a separate interview this month. "How much more successful can we be simply working together?"

Bozsum, 52, first met Butler years ago when he would play golf with Butler's father, but they became close in recent years after each was elected chairman. The friendship has influenced relationships between the tribes, which hold intertribal socials more than ever. Bozsum and Butler, 35, are golfing partners, their families have socialized together, and they speak frequently over the phone.

When talk turns to business, they have plenty of shared challenges to discuss.

Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun opened after the Pequots won federal recognition in 1983 and the Mohegans followed in 1994. After years of success, they have struggled with a steady decline in gambling revenue brought on by the economic downturn and new competition in neighboring states.

The Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, which owns casinos in Uncasville and Wilkes-Barre, Pa., announced in March it had refinanced debt of about \$1 billion, and the Pequots said in October that creditors had signed on to its plan to restructure \$2.2 billion in debt.

Bozsum said the two men discuss industry trends and joke together about their marketing and other strategies, but they do not share proprietary information.

"We do our own thing, but we watch each other. And we both probably adjust to what's happening across the street," Bozsum said.

One area where they have not agreed is how to handle Internet gambling if it is legalized. While the Pequots have expressed interest in running online versions of casino games, Bozsum has argued that legalizing online games other than poker will hurt brick-and-mortar casinos. Bozsum said that he believes the matter should be handled through federal legislation, but that if it becomes a state issue, he and Butler would probably "lock wrists for a while until we figure it out."

The ceremony last spring marked the 375th anniversary of the massacre in which the Mohegans, in alliance with the English and the Narragansett tribe, killed 150 elderly men, women and children in a May 26, 1637, raid on a Pequot village.

Mistrust stemming from that massacre had been the biggest impediment to better tribal relations until now, according to both chairmen, and some members in each tribe have expressed skepticism of the new relationship.

"You'd be surprised how long people hold a grudge," Bozsum said. "We're both fighting for the same things, sovereignty, protect your sovereignty, do what's right for your people and make sure we're here 300 years from now. People can say what they want."

A meeting between the two tribal leaders and Gov. Dannel P. Malloy soon after he took office in 2011 was said to be the first of its kind in hundreds of years. The governor's office, which has renegotiated the agreements requiring the tribes to reimburse the state for public safety services and increased their free-play allowance to boost promotions, said it is eager to help the tribes because their casinos contribute so much to the economy.

"The more we can help them, the more they can help the employees they have and help our state," Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman said in an interview.

Butler said he is eager to find other areas to cooperate with the state and the Mohegans. Despite challenges both casinos are facing, he said Bozsum's participation in the ceremony in Mystic showed obstacles can be overcome.

"It was just this amazing, spiritual, emotional moment of, What if we can all stand here together on the grounds of where your people slaughtered our people and say, 'This is a beautiful day, and we're celebrating together?' Then we can get past anything," he said.

COMMENTARY

Capt. Gary Lockee, War Hero



AROUND THE CAMPFIRE
DR. DEAN CHAVERS

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When I was a teenager, I was friends with Miss Lula Lockee. She was born about 1900, just a few years after my grandmother. She would have me to do some work around the farm for her, or we might just sit and talk. She would feed me. Her son Gary and I both agree that his mother was an angel. She and her husband Archie Lockee had three boys and three girls. All three boys were in the Navy in WWII.

Miss Lula would tell me about her boys in the military. Gary was in the Navy and Arch was in the Air Force. Both would stay in the military, Gary for 30 years and Arch for 30. Gary was a ship commander, and Arch was a wing commander. Baby brother Otto also served in the Navy in WWII.

The third bombardier I flew with in B-52s, August Vilseck, had been stationed at March Air Force Base with Arch. He loved Arch to death, telling me many times that Arch was the best pilot in the Air Force. He couldn't believe that I had never met him, especially since we were both from the same tribe. But I never met another Indian the eight years I was in the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve.

The funny thing is I never met Gary and Arch back then. It seems that every time they were home, I was never around. I was either working or I was gone. I spent summers at my Grandpa's farm in Virginia from the time I was seven until I was 11. Then Momma put me to working our farm. Daddy was in the hospital and there was no one else to do it. I worked the farm for five years. It motivated me to want to get an education.

Their daddy Archie had a farm and also worked in town at the Pates Supply grocery store. Gary and his two brothers, Arch and Otto, also had to do all the farm work—plowing, disking, running rows, putting out fertilizer, planting, hoeing, picking cotton, pulling corn, cropping tobacco, chopping wood, cutting ditch banks. Farming is hard work, people.

Their three sisters, Georgia, Joyce, and Claudette, also had to do their shares as well, including cooking, ironing, washing, milking cows, and housework. They had to do field work, too, hoeing cotton, picking cotton, hoeing corn, harvesting tobacco, and breaking tobacco suckers. All of them were so motivated by it that they got educations and moved to Fort Worth. Georgia and Claudie both became school teachers, and Joyce worked as a bookkeeper and secretary for 50 years.

Gary and I started a correspondence a couple of decades ago; it later turned into e-mail. This past Labor Day I went to visit

him and his wife Sally for three days in La Grange, Tennessee. I learned that the man I had thought of as a hero when I was a boy was an authentic one.

His momma would tell me about her two boys. She was very proud of them. She would tell me where they were stationed, what kind of work they were doing, when they got promotions, and so on. Both retired at the top, Arch as a Colonel and Gary at the same rank, Captain in the Navy. I heard so much about them that both Gary and I were surprised when we realized we had never laid eyes on each other.

He told me about being in a play in high school with my mother. When they had rehearsals at night, my grandmother Jessie told him to stay and take care of her. "I used to put her on the handlebars of my bike and ride her home," he told me.

Gary realized he could not get the education he wanted in the Indian schools, so he left home in 1938 and lived with his grandfather Aaron Spencer Lockee in Camden, South Carolina. He finished his last year of high school there, and enrolled at the University of South Carolina. He ran track there, while working the whole time to pay his bills. He was inducted into the Robeson County Hall of Fame in November for his track skills, but mainly for his hunting and bird dog skills.

From the University he went straight into the Navy in 1943. He was assigned to the USS Laws in Task Force 58 and headed straight for the Pacific. He was in nine major campaigns, each one with several battles, in World War II, and never lost a man. The USS Laws steamed over 100,000 miles, fired 5,000 rounds from each of its five major caliber guns, and never had battle damage. The USS Laws was the only ship in the squadron not to suffer battle damage. Of the nine ships in its squadron, three were sunk and the other five were severely damaged.

He fought all over the Pacific from 1943 to 1945. The Navy awarded him the Legion of Merit and a chest full of others. His ships won the Battle Efficiency Award twice, meaning his ship was the best in the squadron. The first time he was in a squadron of six ships, and the second time he was in a squadron of eight ships.

After the war he served on seven different ships—the USS C. K. Bronson (1946-47), the USS Tanner (1948-49), the USS Ellyson (1950-51), the USS Brough (1954-56), the USS Turner (1960-62), the USS Albany (1962-63), and the USS Wainwright (1966-68). Just before he became commander of the Wainwright, his last ship, he was the Executive Officer (XO), or second in command, on the USS Albany. He would become one of the first Indians to command a Navy ship. CDR Ernest Evans (Cherokee) was the first Indian to command a ship. Evans was given the Medal of Honor in WWII.

Gary would command three Navy ships—the USS Brough, the USS Turner, and the USS Wainwright. The last one was his last tour of duty, off Viet Nam in the heat of that war. The Wainwright was a huge ship, 547 feet long with a crew of 418 men. It served as a radar station and missile launch platform in the Gulf of Tonkin for a year.

Ironically, in the early 1950s he was an ROTC instructor at the University of North Carolina. It was ironic because there were no Indian students on the campus then; it was illegal! But here he was a Navy instructor

and the only Indian on the campus. He says ROTC was his favorite job in 30 years.

In between battle tours, Capt. Lockee earned his MBA degree from George Washington University. He also earned the equivalent of another Master's degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, DC.

He also served an unbelievable four tours in the Pentagon, where he met all the Navy brass. Most people in the military are lucky to have one tour in the Pentagon. He also served on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT) under Admiral Felix Stump. And he served on the staff of the Commander of the Military Sealift Command.

After WW II was over, Gary married his college sweetheart, Billy Jean Bobo. They were married for over 30 years until she passed away. They had one daughter, Jean Chesno, who lives in Blythewood, South Carolina. Her husband is a clinical psychologist with a Ph. D. Their daughter just finished her Ph. D. work last year. The Chesnos have three children, and four grandchildren. So Gary and his wife Sally have four great-grandchildren.

Several years after Billy Jean died, Gary married Sally Storm Lockee. They are both avid bird hunters. As I write they are in south Texas hunting quail, which Gary has been doing since he was six years old. When I visited them, he showed me his ten dogs—pointers, setters, and retrievers.

His best dog, Jerry's Runaway Bandit, won 11 championships and 42 placements—an astounding record. She is in the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Gary is in it, too.

When I asked him how it felt to be a war hero, he answered, "I'm no hero. I'm a genuine lover of our great country, a loyal citizen, a protector of our security, and a promoter of education for all our citizens."

We learned recently that his great-great-grandmother and my great-great-great-grandmother was the same person, Rachel Chavers. She gave birth to my great-grandfather Angus Chavers's father and to Gary's grandmother's grandfather, Richard Carter. That was a surprise to both of us. And Gary was amazed that I had traced our lineage back 12 generations, to 1645. I am still amazed by it myself.

Gary is 90 years old. When I visited him, he showed me around the 23,000-acre Ames Plantation where they do all their field trials. And he showed me around his museum. He was the founding President of the National Bird Dog Hall of Fame and Museum in La Grange, Tennessee, which is a huge place now. It also houses the Field Trial Hall of Fame, the National Bird Dog Museum, the National Heritage Center, and the National Retriever Museum.

Gary visited every state in the union to solicit support for it. It took him over a decade to put it all together. He was never paid for his time. In fact, he gave both his time and his money to the cause.

It is a pleasure to meet one of your heroes, even if it takes 50 years.

Dr. Dean Chavers has been writing this column since 1980. His last book was "Racism in Indian Country," published by Peter Lang. His next book is "The American Indian Dropout."

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com or mailed to PO Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification.

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Vision Maker Media looking for interns

LINCOLN, Neb. – Vision Maker Media is looking to partner American Indian and Alaska Native college students with public television stations to offer multiple summer internships. From all submissions, Vision Maker Media will select top students who are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate coursework for this 10-week, paid internship.

Interns can be located at Vision Maker Media's offices at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or at a public television station in the United States. Vision Maker Media will contact stations that are requested by interns to determine placement options.

“Providing experience for Native students in the media is vitally important to ensure that we can continue a strong tradition of digital storytelling. We are grateful for the support of local PBS stations in helping us

achieve this goal,” Shirley K. Sneve, Vision Maker Media executive director, said.

The purpose of this paid summer internship is to increase the journalism and production skills for selected college students. One major goal will be to increase the quantity and quality of multimedia reporting available to public television audiences and other news outlets.

The application process includes a cover letter, resume, work samples, an official school transcript and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member or former supervisor. All applications must include the signed application form with a postmarked date of March 1. Applicants will be notified in April.

For more information, visit <http://www.nativetelecom.org/intern>.



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Competitive compensation based on credentials and experience. Start date is negotiable but no later than July 1, 2013. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indians and other ethnic groups. EOE

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Send résumé and writing sample no later than February 8, 2013, to Angie L. Cole, AA-EEO Officer, OIDS, P.O. Box 926, Norman, OK 73070-0926 or angie.cole@oids.ok.gov EOE

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The US Attorney's Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is seeking to fill its Administrative Officer position. Beginning salary is \$81,823.00 per year. See vacancy announcement 13-OKW-826276-DE at www.usajobs.gov (Exec Office for US Attorneys). Applications must be submitted on-line or by fax. See "How to Apply" section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Bob Troester, Executive Asst US Attorney, (405) 553-8809. Open application period is from January 22, 2013, to February 4, 2013.

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EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY

Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY

The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY

Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY

Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15

Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013

All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

FEBRUARY 2

Victory Christain Native American Group Food Sale/Fundraiser at 8611 S. Union, 11:00-3:00. Chili, Beans, cornbread, hot dogs. Contact: 918-906-0588

FEBRUARY 8-9

Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

FEBRUARY 8-10

Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Glenpool Conference Center, behind Walmart, HWY 175 & 121st, Glenpool. Now accepting entries! www.tulsaindianartfestival.com

FEBRUARY 9

Free Cherokee History Class 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Rogers County Bldg., 419 South Brady, Claremore OK. Bring a sack lunch. Contact Councilman Lee Keener for details at lee-keener@cherokee.org or call 918.550.3351

FEBRUARY 9

Sac & Fox Powwow Committee benefit Ko Thi Ke No Ki (Indian Dice) Tournament, 2pm, Sac & Fox Community Building, 5 1/2 miles S of Stroud. \$5 entry fee per person. Winner gets 1/2 of entry fee pot. Plus Box Supper - prizes for best decorated.

FEBRUARY 9

Seminole Nation Honor Guard Powwow, St. Gregory University,

Shawnee, Okla. Co-host Comanche Little Ponies. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm. Grand Entry at 7pm. Contest Powwow. Info call Rex Haily 405-382-3900 or Alex Fish 405-432-7858.

FEBRUARY 9

Eagle & Condor Idle No More rally, time TBA, Brady Theater, 105 W. Brady St., Tulsa

FEBRUARY 9

Mid-America All-Indian Center's Valentine Powwow, 650 N Seneca St. - Wichita, Kansas.

FEBRUARY 10

Idle No More, 3pm, Oklahoma City Downtown Library

FEBRUARY 15-16

Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

FEBRUARY 22-23

Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

MARCH 2

Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

MARCH 16

Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 22

2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 23

Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds 11400 613 Road, Miami. Info call 918-542-2441 or Email: shawneechild@shawnee-tribe.com Website: www.shawnee-tribe.com

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com Website: www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website: www.tonkawatribe.com

SONJA HALLER
The Arizona Republic

Renowned hoop dancer Derrick

Now in its 11th year, Davis said one of Native Trails' most-often expressed sentiments is "the message we convey about living a good life and maintaining balance."

New this year are local merchants selling items indigenous to the area, including bread, muffins and

“We do our best to invite the local community and to explain how a particular area or mountain and its resources were viewed and are still viewed by our community,” Davis said.

Other free, outdoor musical performances in the Northeast Valley begin to amp up this time of year.



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Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 8, 2013

New law lets tribes seek direct disaster aid

SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – The response to natural disasters and other emergencies in American Indian communities is expected to improve thanks to legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama. Tribes are now able to seek

federal disaster aid directly from the president rather than waiting for state governors to make a declaration. The provision was included in the \$50.5 billion emergency measure Obama signed last week to help victims of Superstorm Sandy. Tribes have been pushing to streamline the process for more than a decade.

Former Santa Clara Pueblo Gov. Walter Dasheno, whose northern New Mexico tribe has been struggling with the effects of one of the worst wildfires in the state's history, said in a recent interview that tribal governments were looking for a direct line of communication with Obama and his administration, especially during times of

need when fires or floods are bearing down on them. "We should not be treated as third world countries," said Dasheno, who had testified in support of the change. "We should be there at the table, sitting across from the president, addressing our needs and concerns. I think we've been on the back burner for a number of years."

The effort to include tribes in the Stafford Act, under which the federal government aids states in responding to natural disasters, gained steam last summer when Congress received letters of support from tribes, the American Red Cross and Craig Fugate, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Fugate said tribes will be

able to choose whether to make a request directly to the president or to get assistance through a state disaster declaration as they do now. Those tribes that seek direct aid will have to meet certain requirements, including having a percentage of matching funds and disaster

See **AID** Continued on Page 4



Seneca Scott, D-Tulsa

Oklahoma State Rep. named to national legislative group

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – State Rep. Seneca Scott has been elected secretary of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators – a working group of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Scott is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation and has been involved with the NCSL since 2009. The Native American caucus acts as an advisory body for the NCSL on issues affecting American Indians and includes 72 members from 17 states, including 24 from Oklahoma.

Scott is a Democrat from Tulsa and says he hopes to encourage partnerships with other states that can benefit from Oklahoma's unique position as a national leader on energy, health and infrastructure projects among the various tribes. Scott says Oklahoma can use its experience to help other states and regions improve the lives of American Indians.

C&A Tribe further divided over upcoming election

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Who will run the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' election this fall is one more issue facing a divided tribe. After their political alliance dissolved more than two years ago, elected leaders Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell and Leslie Wandrie-Harjo each formed her own government, claiming to be the legitimate authority over the Cheyenne

and Arapaho Tribes. Now, with the candidates' filing period coming up May 1, the Legislature affiliated with Wandrie-Harjo's administration formally filed a request with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to oversee the tribes' election. A letter was delivered to the superintendent of the BIA's Concho agency and mailed to Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn on Jan. 31.

See **ELECTION** Continued on Page 3

Cherokee Nation official dies in car accident

JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS
Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – The Cherokee Nation's secretary of state died in a head-on collision with a tractor-trailer on a northeast Oklahoma highway, authorities said. Charles Head, 63, was heading north Wednesday on U.S. 69 near Chouteau when he veered into oncoming traffic and struck the big rig, said Michael Reese, the assistant police chief in Chouteau, a community about 40 miles east of Tulsa. Reese said he had nothing else to say about the collision,

but that the report would likely be finished by Monday. It wasn't immediately clear if the driver of tractor-trailer was injured. Head had served as

See **CAR** Continued on Page 4



Charles Head, Cherokee Nation Secretary of State



LISA SNELL | NATIVETIMES

Native Americans and supporters of the Idle No More movement rallied Jan. 28 on the steps of the Oklahoma state Capitol building.

INM International Day of Action draws crowd to Okla. state Capitol

■ With events in 20 states and six countries, Monday's International Day of Action coincided with the reconvening of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – With hand drums, signs and chants, Natives and non-Native supporters rallied on the north side of the Oklahoma state Capitol building Monday morning as part of the Idle No More movement's International Day of Action. "This has to be our first step," Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Chebon Kernelo said. "We will never be treated as second class citizens or wards of the state again. "You (state officials) will not mistreat our elders in our clinics. You will respect our children for having long hair and for speaking our language. The time has come where we must rise up and stand together. We can't let those around us dictate our way of life." Launched in Saskatchewan by four women, Idle No More is a grass roots group formed in protest of an omnibus budget bill that they claim would violate the treaty and

Constitutional rights of First Nations groups, while weakening environmental protection laws and land removal policies. It has since grown to include efforts to draw attention to issues facing Natives in other countries, including the United States. "The problems they're facing in Canada are the same ones we're facing all over," Anadarko resident Angela Chaddlesone McCarthy said. "We must register our people to vote and go to the polls in four years so that we can get people in office who care about our issues." Among the issues that have become tied to the Idle No More movement in Oklahoma is the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline, whose southern leg cuts through the east central portion of the state, including portions of the Sac and Fox Nation, Seminole Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Choctaw Nation en route to the Gulf of Mexico. Holding an anti-Keystone sign, Chaddlesone McCarthy, who is Kiowa and Kootenai, led a "Frack off, Fallin" chant aimed Republican Gov. Mary Fallin. Fallin has publicly supported the pipeline construction project, which has brought 850 jobs to Oklahoma. With events in 20 states and six countries, Monday's international Day of Action coincided with the reconvening of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa. After

See **CROWD** Continued on Page 4

Inter-Tribal Council meets in Durant



LISA REED | CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA
Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle adds his signature to resolutions approved during the Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal General Session on Friday in Durant.

LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

DURANT, Okla. – A recurring theme emerged as leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes explored the future – the necessity of expanding economic development. The Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council met Thursday and Friday in Durant with the top objective of improving services for their people. With expected cuts to federal budgets, the tribal representatives focused on how to continue programs providing assistance, health benefits, education and cultural awareness. "The Inter-Tribal Council is one of the oldest organizations in Indian Country," said Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "The unified effort of members of the Council and its delegates is important in our communication on a state and federal level." A full day of committee discussions opened the third quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council since it reconvened in June 2012. Staff from the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee,

See **COUNCIL** Continued on Page 4

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Corps releases water despite tribal protest

■ Although the water is adjacent to 2,000 acres of tribal trust land, the Tribes have no recourse.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CANTON, Okla. – Despite protests from a tribal government, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released more than 30,000 acre-feet of water into the North Canadian River Wednesday to replenish Oklahoma City’s drinking water supply.

Located in Blaine and Dewey counties in western Oklahoma, Canton Lake feeds into the North Canadian River and is a source for Oklahoma

City’s primary drinking water reservoir, Lake Hefner.

Canton Lake is also within the jurisdictional area of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. The constitutionally-bound tribes have been dealing with a leadership schism for more than two years, with both Leslie Wandrie-Harjo and Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell claiming to be the legitimate governor after a series of allegations dissolved their political partnership.

On Jan. 22, the legislature affiliated with Wandrie-Harjo’s administration formally requested a moratorium on any draw downs and releases from Canton Lake until at least late March or early April, when spring rains normally begin in western Oklahoma and to provide time for assessments to be completed on the potential

economic, environmental, health and property impacts of withdrawing water from the lake. The Tribes own more than 2,000 acres of trust land adjacent to the lake, along with a portion of the lake’s shoreline. The Tribes’ Lucky Star Casino in Canton, Okla., pulls in a portion of its business from lake tourism.

“The consequences of this situation are huge,” Speaker Jane Nightwalker wrote in the Legislature’s request. “The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife has predicted a blue-green algae bloom, followed by a massive fish kill in the hot summer months. A long-term lower lake level will lower the surrounding water table to the point that many of the local water wells could dry up.”

However, Oklahoma City owns the water rights and

storage rights to more than 90,000 acre-feet of lake water. Prior to Wednesday’s draw down, Oklahoma City implemented a mandatory odd/even water rotation program for all water customers in Oklahoma City and in the communities that use its water based on their addresses’ building numbers. More stringent programs could be implemented as temperatures and water demand increase.

The water will take about two weeks to reach Lake Hefner on Oklahoma City’s northwest side. Due to ongoing drought conditions in Oklahoma, the lake, which is a drinking water reservoir for about 1.2 million people, is at its lowest level since the Army Corps of Engineers built it in 1947. Despite recent rains across the state, the lake is still 17 feet below capacity, two

feet lower than the previous record set in October.

“We put off the release as long as possible,” Oklahoma City Utilities Department Director Marsha Slaughter said. “The recent rain will help prevent the released water from being absorbed into the dry river bed.”

A representative from Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration said they had met with the Army Corps of Engineers to voice their concerns about the draw down but acknowledged that they had little recourse.

“There’s nothing we can do to stop it because Oklahoma City owns most of it,” Prairie Chief-Boswell spokeswoman Lisa Liebl said. “The tribe only owns a small portion. We tried to negotiate a happy medium, but this is a tough situation for everyone involved.”

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES
Attn: Subscriptions
P.O. Box 411
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0411
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ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

“We now face a future with two governments and two elections for an indeterminate amount of time,” Legislature Speaker Jane Nightwalker wrote. “We would therefore like to formally request and authorize you and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take whatever measures necessary to conduct a fair, unbiased and indisputable 2013 election process.”

In the letter, Nightwalker offered to use some of the tribes’ frozen assets to pay for the BIA’s costs to conduct the election. More than \$6 million of the tribes’ money is currently under the supervision of a Custer County, Okla., district court judge, who has maintained that the funds could be at least partially released to programs and services that would directly impact the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

The request is similar to one previously adopted by the tribal legislature affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration. However, Lisa Liebl, spokeswoman for the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, said Friday that a petition was being circulated to call a special council meeting in order to repeal that resolution. As per the Cheyenne and Arapaho constitution, a special meeting may be called if at least 150 adult tribal citizens sign a petition or at the request of five members of the Tribes’ eight-member Legislature.

“We are working on repealing that resolution because the BIA has not shown itself to be responsive enough to handle conducting an election,” Liebl said. “Instead, we are working on securing a third-party contractor to come in and conduct the election.”

Prairie Chief-Boswell and Wandrie-Harjo ran for office and were inaugurated together in January 2010, but their alliance dissolved over a series of allegations. Today, each maintains her own government – Boswell in Concho and Harjo in El Reno – complete with separate Legislatures, election commissions and courts. Multiple appeals on the split and its implications are pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals, but no timeline has been given on a ruling.

Candidates’ filing period closes June 1. The primary election is scheduled for Oct. 8 and the general election is scheduled for Nov. 5.



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION | COURTESY
Mahaylah Long and her mother Madison Long spend time in the play area of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s new Women, Infant and Children program building.

CPN WIC Program opens new location

Additional space allows for new WIC Café and expanded participant services

JENNIFER HARDESTY
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

SHAWNEE, Okla. – Citizen Potawatomi Nation has moved its Women, Infant and Children program to a new 4,000 square foot building. The additional space will allow CPN WIC to continue to provide supplemental food and nutrition services to participants in a more comfortable and confidential atmosphere.

The program was previously located in 1,500 square foot office in the corner of FireLake Discount Foods, which limited the services and confidentially for participants. “We have expanded our services, but have never expanded our office

space,” said Shelley Schneider, director, CPN WIC. “This new building will allow us to keep our existing services, introduce additional services and increase participant confidentiality, and that will be beneficial for the mothers and children in our communities.”

The new location includes a larger waiting area with a play room, a private breastfeeding room, WIC Café and additional office and storage space.

“This new location will make my appointments so much easier,” said Madison Long, WIC participant. “The extra room in the waiting area and the play spaces make it more comfortable and easy, especially when you have an active child.”

Additional educational services and nutrition counseling services will be offered because of the new WIC Café and confidential meeting rooms.

“We tried to have WIC Café in the

previous location and didn’t have the space. It was dangerous to do cooking demonstrations in such a small area,” said Cheryl Richardson, nutrition and breastfeeding coordinator, CPN WIC. “We have a full size kitchen now and that will allow us to educate participants on better food choices and show them different meal options with WIC approved foods.”

CPN has operated the WIC program for more than 34 years and currently serves a seven county area in central Oklahoma. The seven counties include Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Lincoln, Logan, Payne, Oklahoma, and Seminole counties. The monthly average service population includes 260 women, 300 infants, and 720 children.

The total project cost was \$554,880 and was funded by an infrastructure grant provided by United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service program.

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Okla. Historical Society launches Office of American Indian Cultural Preservation

The office will offer on-site consultations, assistance with grant proposals and cooperative agreements with tribes.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Historical Society is adding a branch office in Indian Country this spring. Approved by its board of directors on Jan. 23, the Oklahoma Historical Society will officially launch the Office of American Indian Cultural Preservation on April 1. “American Indian cultural preservation has been a major part of OHS programs since 1907, but we have never had a specific working unit dedicated to that

task,” Oklahoma Historical Society director Bob Blackburn said. “The creation of the OHS Office of American Indian Cultural Preservation gives us that opportunity.” Bill Welge, who has been with OHS’ research division for 36 years, will head up the new office, which will offer expanded outreach programs to tribal governments and tribal citizens across Oklahoma. “We want to offer hands-on training for both tribal citizens and tribes to help preserve roll books, photographs and other artifacts,” Welge said. “It only makes sense that we now have an office. We were doing this anyway; now it’s just formalized.” Among the services offered are conversion of records and photographs to digital or microfilm formats, museum exhibit development and training on

proper preservation techniques to better combat exposure to fluorescent light, humidity, dust and other damaging elements. “For example, one tribe we previously worked with had their original roll sheets and records laminated,” Welge said. “Laminating creates a permanent heat seal and can cause irreversible damage.” The office will also offer on-site consultations, assistance with grant proposals and cooperative agreements with tribes to better preserve their artifacts. “We need to know how Indian people want to record and share their own history,” Blackburn said. “We will work with them no matter where the collections are located and stored. The critical task is collecting and preserving those collections so they can be shared today and in the future.”

Relics of ancient Caddo life go on public view

The entire collection, including 450 bowls, jars and vessels, was dug in East Texas and historians say it may be the largest anywhere.

SARAH THOMAS
Longview News-Journal

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP) – One of the largest known collections of Caddo Indian artifacts is being analyzed by new 3-D imaging technology at the Gregg County Historical Museum, as archeologists try to gain new insights into the lives of the ancient East Texas tribe. Buddy Calvin Jones amassed a collection of more than 3,000 Caddo Indian artifacts during the 1950s and 1960s. His entire collection, including 450 bowls, jars and vessels, was dug in East Texas and historians say it may be the largest anywhere. “Certainly in the region,” said Gregg County Historical Museum Director Bill Hansen. Jones’ collection landed in the Gregg County Historical Museum in 2003, where the artifacts filled hundreds of boxes, bags, plastic bins and glass cases. And now, in a room at the top of the museum, those boxes, bags, bins and cases are taking a group of

researchers on a tour through tribal history. Zac Selden, a Ph.D. candidate at Texas A&M University, is part of the group working to sort and catalog the artifacts that date back to 1700 A.D. Selden spent a recent Wednesday creating 3-D renderings of bowls and jars using a high-tech imaging device. “It’s our first attempt at doing a three-dimensional analysis,”



GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM | COURTESY
Artifacts included in the Gregg County Historical Museum’s Caddo exhibit

he said. “The next step is to complete a geochemical and petrographic analysis to determine the interaction between and among Caddo groups as well as neighboring tribes.” Selden said he hoped the catalog would begin to shed light on how the Caddo lived. There were several Caddo groups during the same time, he said, and cataloging Jones’ finds can help archaeologists examine designs and motifs

to determine which group made each item. “This will tell a hopefully significant story of who was here,” Selden said. The history is important to develop because of the tribe’s role in area history, he said, and East Texans should recognize and understand the rich history around them. “It’s important that people in Gregg County realize that archaeology is not just something overseas in

Egypt,” he said. “It’s here, right underfoot.” Jones, who died in 1998, didn’t make the task an easy one. “Buddy wasn’t the greatest note taker that ever lived, and he had his own note-taking system,” said Tim Perttula, an Austin-based tribal archaeological consultant who is assisting in the sorting process. “So a lot of what Patti’s been doing is playing detective to figure out what goes with what.”

Patti Haskins, the museum’s volunteer archaeological steward, said breaking Jones’ code has been a daily chore since 2005. The task got easier in 2010 when she received more detailed notes. “From those notes, I was able to put everything together,” Haskins said. All of Haskins’ work with the collection has been on a volunteer basis, and she said it’s been a joy to be part of bringing the artifacts to life. “These artifacts are extremely valuable, but the value is not monetary – it’s cultural,” she said. Perttula agreed. “We’re bringing to life the history of the Caddo and all the people and places that until now we’ve only known they existed,” he said. “But until someone studies it and puts it on record, it is out there as kind of lost history.” And although studying history everywhere is important, the Caddo Indians have a special connection to Texas, Perttula said. “The Caddo had a huge role in the early history of the state,” he said. “They were recognized as diplomats that moderated between Texas and other Indian groups.” The reassembled bowls, vessels and jars will be on display in about three months at the Gregg County Historical Museum, Hansen said.

AID

Continued from Page 1

plans in place. Robert Holden, deputy director of the National Congress of American Indians, said the change is a boost to tribal sovereignty and will help eliminate delays that can be critical when responding to emergencies. “It was the frustration over the years in terms of the interaction and the process and how tribal lands and citizens have been shortchanged and left stranded by natural and technical disasters,” he said. “It’s just unfair and inequitable, and we’re just trying to right what should be righted.” Holden noted that many tribal communities are in rural areas and sometimes encompass lands larger than some states. At Santa Clara Pueblo, two-thirds of the tribe’s forests have been charred by wildfires that have started outside the

reservation’s boundaries over the last 14 years. The most recent one has left the tribe with the threat of flooding for the past two summers. In Montana, floodwaters from the Little Bighorn River and other waterways devastated parts of the Crow Indian Nation in 2011, swamping homes, businesses and churches. A Havasupai village at the bottom of the Grand Canyon – accessible only by foot, mule or helicopter – was flooded in 2010, forcing the evacuation of tourists and causing more than \$1.6 million in damages. That marked the first disaster declaration in Arizona for which a sovereign tribal nation was the sole applicant. “There are just numerous instances where not only property but lives have been lost and there has been economic disruption,” Holden said. “It’s throughout Indian Country. Disasters aren’t restricted to certain areas.”

CAR

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secretary of state for the 300,000-member tribe since last January. Before taking office, Head worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for more than a decade, most recently as the interim regional director for the eastern Oklahoma office in Muskogee, the tribe said. Bill John Baker, the principal chief of the Tahlequah-based tribe, said Head had become a close friend. “Charles was a Cherokee statesman and ambassador for all of Indian country,” Baker said. “He was devoted to serving and working for the

betterment of native people, first through a long career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and most recently as our Secretary of State. “He was an invaluable part of my administration, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him,” Baker said. Tina Glory-Jordan, the speaker of the Tribal Council, said Head’s institutional knowledge will be hard to replace. “He was a good Cherokee man who had a heart for the people,” she said. Head, a Pryor native, worked for the tribe previously from 1987-2000, in several roles, including executive director of finance to USDA liaison.

CROWD

Continued from Page 1

meeting with First Nations leaders earlier this month, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has promised to be more mindful of treaty rights and land claims issues, but has not responded to criticism of the omnibus bill that helped instigate the movement. “When our brothers and sisters in Canada stood up,

Council

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Seminole and Muscogee-Creek Nations formed work groups to share information and ideas on boosting tourism, housing, social services, communication technology, cultural preservation, transportation and more. Pyle welcomed nearly 200 in attendance Friday at the council’s general session in the Choctaw Resort’s conference area. He highlighted the Choctaw Nation’s top priorities – education, health and jobs. The expansion of tribal business is vital to the success of enhancing the lives of tribal members. The impact is good for Oklahoma as well, providing much-needed jobs and generating positive economic activity. Seminole Nation Chief Leonard Harjo, who has worked at the executive level for over 20 years, commented on the growth and progress among the five tribes, commending his peers for the strides that have been made carrying their people forward. “We are well on the way to

achieving our dreams,” he said of the Seminole Nation. “We opened the second expansion phase of our Seminole language immersion school two weeks ago. We will be able to have 18 children in the full immersion environment five days a week.” Funding is available to provide classrooms and develop curriculum through third grade and the next phase will expand the immersion school through the sixth grade. Their goal is to eventually have a full immersion school available for pre-K through 12th grade. “I have challenged our language program to create the opportunity for our tribal youth to be bilingual within 20 years,” Harjo said. The commercial efforts of the tribes are what make this possible, especially with the looming issues of probable federal funding cuts due to the fiscal cliff. It will have an effect on everyone. Preparation is the key. “Tribes are able to step up and help the federal government with the funding process,” explained Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby. By making choices and prioritizing, the tribes can still do what is needed because

of the income from their businesses. Anoatubby said he remembers what it used to be like and is thankful for where the tribes are today. When the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 was implemented, a lot of changes took place in Indian Country. “Today, we can say self-determination works, self-governance works,” he said. Expanding tourism is a fast-growing solution to generating economic growth. Each tribal leader talked about the progress in Oklahoma, listing new ventures under way including unique enterprises such as the Chickasaw Nation’s Welcome Center at the intersection of Interstate 35 and Highway 7. The Chickasaws’ Bedré Chocolate factory will be relocated to the new center, considered a “gateway for travelers.” “When our tribes are successful, Oklahoma is successful,” said Muscogee-Creek Chief George Tiger, who is currently serving as chairman of the Inter-Tribal Council’s executive committee. The Muscogee-Creek Nation is following a new path in developing a Department of Energy and establishing a

utility company. Tiger said small business is also a driving force in Indian Country and has partnered with Oklahoma Small Business Development Center to assist tribal citizens with starting a business. He introduced U.S. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn who reiterated the importance of increasing tribal land and employment. Washburn told the group that around 197,000 acres had been restored to tribes in trust status last year. “We consider restoring the land to tribal homelands one of our great successes,” Washburn said. “We want to keep that success going forward.” The tribes are striving to maintain the upward momentum – a force fueling the prosperity of communities throughout the state. Inter-Tribal Council approves resolutions: • Res. 13-01 – establishing a Standing Committee of Social Services to address issues concerning the social and economic well-being of Indian communities. • Res. 13-02 – in support of the position of the Indian Child Welfare Act and of

the position of the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation citizens concerning the case of Adoptive Couple vs. Baby Girl, et al. • Res. 13-03 – supporting and urging the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners work together with the Oklahoma Bar Association Indian Law Section to include Indian law principles and subject matter on the Oklahoma Bar Exam. • Res. 13-04 – to establish a Standing Enrollment Committee, recognizing that tribal enrollment is the baseline for the Nations to exercise sovereignty, perform commerce-related activities, preserve and protect culturally significant sites; and the vital role of enrollment services and their contributions to each tribe’s sovereignty and existence. • Res. 13-05 – establishing a standing committee who addresses regulations and issues pertaining to the field of environmental protection. • Res. 13-06 – establishing a Standing Committee of Health to address health-related policies and programs promoting the common

welfare of American Indians. • Res. 13-07 – supporting negotiated rulemaking of the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA). • Res. 13-08 – establishing a Standing Realty Trust Services Committee. • Res. 13-09 – recommending and addressing the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. • Res. 13-10 – to continue financial support for the annual To Bridge a Gap Conference during which the U.S. Forest Service, tribal governments and federal agencies and offices gather to discuss issues relevant to historic preservation and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). • Res. 13-11 – supporting the position of the Cherokee Nation in opposition to the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit’s application of ex parte Young to tribal sovereignty. The Cherokee Nation is scheduled to host the next quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council in April.

COMMENTARY

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Tobacco compacts and the manifestation of destiny



S.E. RUCKMAN

I once met a Seneca Cayuga chief who had served in the Navy and decorated his forearms with tattoos. Being a product of veterans, we seemed to click. So much so he allowed me to tour the tribe’s cigarette factory in their jurisdiction. We drove the oddly forested foothills of the Ozark Mountains and talked about things that normally don’t come up in interviews. He looked at me and said, “I think you were meant to be here for a reason.” That phrase has stayed with me.

I am always eager to see the

manifestation of Destiny (not Manifest Destiny) in life. I tend to ask people whether they believe in fate or self destiny, the elusive twins in our lives. These two are like specters that one cannot always see but one that you can see wisps of out of the corner of the eyes (usually in attics or cellars). Women mostly say its fate directing us while men lean toward steering their own destiny.

In Oklahoma, we are in the neighborhood of renegotiating the tribal tobacco compacts with the state. The legacy of tobacco with Indians here is curiously neither fate or self destiny. The Sooner state has had its fair share of tobacco treason, raids, indictments and the like.

It used to be that love scenes in movies were often signaled by both parties in bed smoking a cigarette. Now that cozy scene could be a bygone as the old state-tribal tobacco compacts expire. In various forms of correspondence, Gov. Mary Fallin urges tribal leaders to come on down and make a deal because tobacco compacts are “significant opportunities for our two

governments to work together for the betterment of all Oklahoma.”

One must read between the lines here before signing on the dotted line. The tribes and Oklahoma have always had varying ideas of what was for the betterment of the Native constituency. This started way before statehood and continued through all seven land runs. I don’t believe a consensus has been reached to date.

Before gaming, tribes have always tended to go along with the status quo because they didn’t have the means to say otherwise. Much of that has changed. Now we are looking at the fields of harvest with different eyes. About 3.2 billion amber waves of grain that are growing each year, according to gaming revenue estimates.

Maybe the best solution all around would be to strike tobacco peddling from our midst altogether. Even now, some tribes expound the health benefits of quitting whilst they continue a healthy tobacco trade. According to the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center, American Indians have the highest smoking

rates of all ethnic groups, hitting between 40 to 50 percent which makes it the number one cause of preventable death (in a clinch with diabetes, I bet).

Yet, gambling and tobacco are the unlikely vessels of our sovereign fortitude. In other words, it’s what the Great Father in Washington has given tribes and while we have it, we will work it. Traditional tobacco use is not included in this parable.

Tribal leaders will soon be pressured to accept state terms in the upcoming tobacco compact negotiations (excluding Muscogee (Creek) Nation) tiptoeing over implications of jurisdictional encroachment. The state, it seems, is pushing its hand in an effort to bridge federal funding shortfalls.

Here, a new system of rebates will be negotiated by each tribe with the state. The type and size of the rebate will largely be determined by how much tobacco is sold and what kind of services is supported by that tribe’s tobacco revenue. In other words, the more tobacco a tribe sells and the more they do with

it, the more favorable their tobacco compact terms will be.

Math is not my strongest suit. But for smaller tribes, the ones that don’t have a rash of smoke shops, a smaller volume of cigarette trade may make things a tad unequal in these new negotiations. Funny, but I was under the impression that sovereignty was not quantified by size.

Yes, it’s tobacco compact negotiating time in OK. The whole process is sure to be a premonition of upcoming Class III gaming compacts in a few years. Talk about destiny.

S.E. Ruckman is a citizen of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Anadarko, Okla. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma’s School of Journalism and has written for the Tulsa World and is currently a special contributor to the Native American Times. She is a freelance writer who is based in Oklahoma.

Separating the mixed-bloods from the full bloods

NOTES FROM INDIAN COUNTRY



TIM GIAGO
(Nanwica Kciji)
© Unity South Dakota

Racism isn’t just confined to individuals. Sometimes democratic governments are guilty of it.

Take the case of the Japanese Americans confined to concentration camps during World War II simply because they were Japanese; an injustice that was eventually corrected with restitution.

And then there are the strange cases that occurred in the 1950s under a federal government’s new policy called “termination.” A United States Senator from Utah named Arthur V. Watkins, a Republican, was the “terminator” in many of these cases.

Senator Watkins determined that the only way to treat the “Indian problem” was to eliminate it by taking away all of the government’s connections to the Indian tribes and setting them free. He believed

he knew what was good for the Indians whether they consented to termination or not.

The policies of termination turned out to be so horrific for so many innocent Indians that the policy was eventually dropped and tribes that had been terminated were restored to their original status prior to termination.

One day about 20 years ago I got a letter from a lady named Oranna Felter, a former member of the Ute Indian Tribe of Utah who was no longer considered an Indian because she and 490 members of the tribe were terminated as Indians because they did not have 50 percent degree of Ute Indian blood. Every member of the tribe with 50 degrees or less was cut from the tribal rolls, or as Ms. Felter told me, “As if we were cattle or sheep.”

Last week Ms. Felter said, “We have put lawsuit after lawsuit in the courts and we have been kicked out each time. We don’t have any income so we’ve had to do this on donations from our people who are not rich. After years and years of struggles to regain what we lost, our lands, gas, oil, minerals, and our identity, we are fed up. My people are old and tired, our babies on the rolls are now in their early 60s and I have seen horror stories you could never imagine that has happened to my people. I told my kids the hardest fight I ever had to fight was to be who I am and who I was born, an American Indian.”

She added, “When your own tribe is kicking you in the teeth because

they don’t want to share with you, it’s pretty damned hard.”

The 490 terminated Ute Indians said no to termination. And yet because they were of mixed-blood, they were singled out for termination while the rest full bloods of the Ute Tribe were not.

In 1975, Congress set up the American Indian Policy Review Commission headed by Senator James Abourezk of South Dakota and Congressman Lloyd Meeds of Washington. Task Force Ten, under this Commission, was headed by Jo Jo Hunt with members, John Stevens, Robert V. Bojarcas and George E. Tomer. Their job was to investigate “Terminated and Non Federally Recognized American Indians and the effects of Termination.

They visited the Ute Reservation and named the 490 terminated mixed-bloods “The Terminated Uinta Band of Utes of Utah.” The Task Force determined that “Termination was another “experiment” however ill-conceived and destructive with no controls and no provisions for reversal. Termination was not initiated by the Indians, was not adequately understood by them and was not for the most part “not consented by them.”

The terminated Uinta Band of Utes were given slips of paper called “Shares” that, in the most complicated legal talk, supposedly explained to the terminated Indians how their lands would be handled after termination. The Shares were held in Trust and each individual Indian was treated as a child by the

Trustee in determining the value and disposal of the “Shares.”

Many of the “Shares” which included land and mineral rights were snapped up by local Mormons and by some corporations. It should also be noted that when Ute lands were broken up into allotments under the Dawes Act of 1887 and each individual Ute’s name was put on the list of allottees, after all of the land was accounted for there remained thousands of acres that were not allotted. These lands were put up for sale to the general public and the parents of Sen. Arthur V. Watkins snapped up many acres of this Ute land. The Dawes Act was another federal act by the United States to Americanize the Indian and another slick way to gain millions of acres of Indian land.

In 1975 the American Indian Policy Review Commission made recommendations to restore terminated tribes to their original status. That was a long time ago and the Uinta Band of Utes is still waiting.

Ms. Felter told me that of the 490 terminated Utes many are dying and most are elderly and ill. “When I was terminated I was 11 years old and I did not and could not vote for termination. All I know is we were forcibly subjected to the de-indianization Senator Watkins concocted for us. When I was still very young my parents died as a result of post-termination deprivation and disease as did my younger sister and many others.”

She concluded, “Tim, we have

been very patient, but we can wait no longer. Our children and our children’s children are depending on us to find a way to recover the Treaty Rights stolen from us. We need your help. We have tried to follow conventional rules and policies to make our voices heard, but we have been ignored, ridiculed, abused and shut out.”

A part of what Oranna Felter expressed to me was sent in a letter to President Barak Obama. I hope that someone reads this column and writes to their Congressman and that Obama reads the letter from Ms. Felter and that justice will finally come to the terminated Uinta Band of Utes to correct a horrible injustice foisted upon them so many years ago.

If the government can act to bring justice for the Japanese Americans, surely they can find a way to bring justice to the Uinta Band of Utes, the First Americans.

Oranna Felter can be reached at mykewass@ubtanet.com for more information.

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, was born, raised and educated on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in the Class of 1991. He was inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2007. He can be reached at Unitysodak1@knology.net

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com or mailed to PO Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification.

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Competitive compensation based on credentials and experience. Start date is negotiable but no later than July 1, 2013. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indians and other ethnic groups. EOE

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EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

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EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY
The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

FEBRUARY 8-9
Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 8-10
Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Glenpool Conference Center, behind Walmart, HWY 175 & 121st, Glenpool. Now accepting entries! www.tulsaindianartfestival.com

FEBRUARY 9
Valentine Sweetheart Dance, Non-Profit Fundraiser For Kidney Transplant Fund of Ralph Jay Marcus, 7pm at American Legion Hall, 407 West South Ave., Ponca City. \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Drinks will be sold by Ponca City American Legion (Beer, Wine, Mixed Drinks) Snacks will also be available for purchase. www.ralphmarcus.com for info or to donate.

Free Cherokee History Class
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Rogers County Bldg., 419 South Brady, Claremore OK. Bring a sack lunch. Contact Councilman Lee Keener for details at lee-keener@cherokee.org or call 918.550.3351

Sac & Fox Powwow Committee
benefit Ko Thi Ke No Ki (Indian Dice) Tournament, 2pm, Sac & Fox Community Building, 5 1/2 miles S of Stroud. \$5 entry fee per person. Winner gets 1/2 of entry fee pot. Plus Box Supper - prizes for best

decorated.

Seminole Nation Honor Guard
Powwow, St. Gregory University, Shawnee, Okla. Co-host Comanche Little Ponies. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm. Grand Entry at 7pm. Contest Powwow. Info call Rex Haily 405-382-3900 or Alex Fish 405-432-7858.

Idle? Know More! rally, 5:30 pm,
Brady Theater, 105 W. Brady St., Tulsa.

Mid-America All-Indian Center's
Valentine Powwow, 650 N Seneca St. - Wichita, Kansas.

Tulsa Indian Art Festival Gourd
Dance, 4:00 p.m. to ? – at the Festival, Glenpool Conference Center, HWY 75 & 121st, Glenpool (behind Walmart) www.tulsaindianartfestival.com

FEBRUARY 10
Idle No More, 3pm, Oklahoma City Downtown Library

FEBRUARY 15-16
Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com

com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

FEBRUARY 16
Gathering of Eagles Dance at Watchetaker Hall, Comanche Nation Complex, 8 miles north of Lawton. Gourd Dancing at 1pm; supper at 5pm; Round Dancing &

Social at 6pm. Info call Denese 580-365-4238 (after 5pm)

Benefit Dance sponsored by
Tonkawa Scalp Dance Society at Fort Oakland Reserve/Tonkawa, OK. For more information & details, call Marie at 580/716-5326. Purpose is to help support Chilocco 70s group pay for evening meal on May 31st, 2013, at the Chilocco Reunion Dance.

FEBRUARY 22-23
Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com

com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

MARCH 2
Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

MARCH 16
Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

Native High School All-Star Game,
Shawnee, Okla. Info email michael.logan@potawatomi.org

MARCH 22
2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC.

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013
In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 15, 2013



PETE SOUZA | OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO
President Barack Obama and Sally Jewell applaud outgoing Interior Secretary Ken Salazar after President Obama announced Jewell as his nominee to replace Salazar, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Feb. 6, 2013.

Obama picks outdoor retail exec to lead DOI

■ If confirmed by the Senate, Sally Jewell, 56, would replace current Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who has announced he will step down in March.

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Barack Obama’s choice for interior secretary is a lifelong outdoors enthusiast who likes to

bike, ski and climb mountains. As president and chief executive at Recreational Equipment Inc., Sally Jewell has applied her passion to her job, helping push REI to nearly \$2 billion in annual revenues and a place on Fortune Magazine’s list of “Best Places to Work.” Now Obama hopes to take advantage of Jewell’s love for the outdoors and her business sense as she takes over at Interior, the federal department responsible for

See DOI Continued on Page 4

Senate poised to renew Violence Against Women Act

JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Senators tussled Feb. 7 over whether Indian authorities



Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.

should be able to prosecute non-Indians in domestic abuse cases, an issue that has delayed passage of legislation to renew the federal government’s main law in the fight against domestic violence. The 1994 act expired in 2011, but reauthorization was blocked last year by differences between the Democratic-led Senate, which is seeking to extend new protections for gays, lesbians, immigrants and Native American women,

and the Republicans in the House, who said the Senate bill goes too far. Advocates of the act have been more optimistic this year because Republicans trying to shore up their losses among female voters in the November election say they are eager to pass a bill. The Senate had hoped to pass its bill last Thursday, but a final vote was put off so that it could debate,

See SENATE Continued on Page 7

Northern Arapaho Tribe praises pending eagle bill

The tribe’s Business Council believes the language of the bill will allow the tribe to take up to two bald eagles in the state of Wyoming outside the Wind River Reservation.

BEN NEARY
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) – A bill that would allow falconers to capture golden

eagles in Wyoming could offer the Northern Arapaho Tribe a legal way to kill eagles for religious use in its annual Sun Dance. Sen. Bernadine Craft, D-Rock Springs, is sponsor of the bill. It would eliminate a state ban on taking eagles and instead permit people to take them if they’re authorized to do so by federal law or state game commission rules. Craft said Wednesday her bill is intended to allow certified master falconers to capture golden eagles in areas where the birds take

See EAGLE Continued on Page 4

NCAI warns federal budget cuts pose threat to Indian Country

THOM WALLACE
NCAI News Release

WASHINGTON – American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities are bracing to be hit hard by the looming budget sequestration set to take place on March 1, 2013. Jefferson Keel, President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) outlined the critical situation in letters to leading members of Congress this week. In the letters, NCAI outlined how an annual 5 percent across the board sequestration would lead to devastating impacts to health care systems, law enforcement, education, and other essential governmental services for tribal governments and communities. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) estimates the effective percentage reduction will be approximately 9 percent

for non-defense programs because the reduction will be implemented over the remaining seven months of the fiscal year. The letters from the NCAI President come the week before the annual State of Indian Nations Address to be delivered by Keel from Washington, DC on February 14, 2013. Letters sent to Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (WA) and Vice Chairman John Barrasso (ID) of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) included the release of the annual Indian Country Budget Request publication. Letters were also sent to Representatives Tom Cole (OK) and Betty McCollum (MN), Co-Chairs of the House Native American Caucus, and Chairman Don Young (AK) and Ranking Member Colleen Hanabusa (HI) of the House Natural



Jefferson Keel, NCAI President

Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs. This year’s publication, Fiscal Year 2014 Indian Country Budget Request: Supporting Tribal Economic Security and Prosperity, was authored by NCAI in collaboration with tribal governments and 30 national and regional tribal organizations. The organization also plans to release the comprehensive

See CUTS Continued on Page 4



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN | COURTESY
The artwork that accompanied the Racist Stereotypes and Cultural Appropriation in American Sports seminar held Feb. 7 at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Nickname takes a beating during NMAI symposium

■ Unaware of what the presentation was all about, Andre Holland wore his burgundy and gold Redskins hat, earmuffs and key chain to the National Museum of the American Indian.

JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) – Hurtful names and racial stereotypes of all types were discussed and dissected Thursday in a daylong symposium at the Smithsonian, and the Washington Redskins were at the top of the list for nearly all those who spoke. “I can only imagine what it would be like to be at a football game at FedEx Field in a crowd of close to 90,000, all screaming at the top of their lungs, when what they are screaming is a racial slur,” said Judith Bartnoff, a deputy presiding

judge in District of Columbia Superior Court. By the time the day was over, they had a convert. Unaware of what the presentation was all about, Andre Holland wore his burgundy and gold Redskins hat, earmuffs and key chain to the National Museum of the American Indian. He was on a field trip with his Sports in America class from Anne Arundel Community College. When the sessions ended, the 20-year-old student had removed the hat and disavowed the nickname of his lifelong favorite NFL team, having been persuaded that it’s as racist as the worst names he might be called as an African-American. “I really don’t feel right wearing this stuff now,” Holland said. “And now I can’t even say ‘HTTR’ – which is ‘Hail to the Redskins’ – because that’s chanting something racist. I’m going to be a fan of Washington – a ‘Washington football team.’ Not the ‘Washington Redskins.’”

See NICKNAME Continued on Page 5

NCAIED
News Release

“Among the many economic development initiatives that

This year, the much-anticipated business



Gary Davis, President and Ceo; Margo Gray-Proctor, Chairwoman; Urban Giff, Director; Raymond Brown, Treasurer and John Echowhawk, Director, joke with the crowd as they ceremonially cut the ribbon Nov. 15 and officially open NCAIED's first regional event, RES Oklahoma, at the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Catoosa.

This year's keynote speakers are hand-picked to inspire. Victoria Labalme has coached Fortune 100 executives at Microsoft,

In the session titled “Creativity, Leadership and Innovation: A Conversation with Frank Oz,” attendees will get to learn the incredible story of the man behind Yoda, Miss Piggy, Cookie Monster, Bert, Fozzie Bear, Grover, Animal and the director of 12 Hollywood feature films. Mr. Oz will be interviewed live on stage, where he’ll give his vision about what it takes to lead a team under

Breakout sessions will cover topics on energy,

“At a time when diversifying our economic vision has never been more important,” Davis said, “the National Center’s role in fostering global relations between Indian Country and other countries to facilitate new opportunities beyond the U.S. is the future.”

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Osage Nation residents worried over lax drilling regs

■ Among the areas of environmental concern is the unregulated emission of hydrogen sulfide.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – Although potential policy updates are being considered at the federal level, many local residents and producers are worried about the environmental impact of the lax drilling regulations within the Osage Nation.

“I have to wonder: will the BIA and DOI enforce these new policies when they’ve failed this far to enforce their old ones?” asked Nona Roach, an independent oil and gas accountant from Avant, Okla., whose Osage County property has been impacted by drill sites.

Managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Osage Nation’s \$4 billion mineral estate is the largest single-owner mineral estate in the country. In 2009 alone, more than 4 million barrels of oil were produced in the county, third most of Oklahoma’s 77 counties.

In addition to the duties assigned to any other BIA agency office, the Osage Agency is also responsible for processing and issuing drilling permits to oil and natural gas producers attempting to do business in Osage County. Established as part of a \$380 million settlement of a federal lawsuit alleging mismanagement of the Osage Nation’s 1.4 million acre

mineral estate, the Osage Negotiating Rulemaking Committee is part of a two-year process to review and update the policies concerning oil and natural gas drilled within the Osage Nation’s boundaries in northern Oklahoma.

Among the areas of environmental concern is the unregulated emission of hydrogen sulfide. Also called “swamp gas,” it is a natural byproduct of oil and natural gas drilling, as well as wastewater treatment facilities and large concentrations of livestock manure. The average person can identify the colorless gas by its smell, often compared to rotting eggs.

A broad spectrum poison, exposure to moderate concentrations of hydrogen sulfide gas can quickly impact multiple systems in the human body, including the nervous, respiratory and circulatory. Just a few breaths of air with high levels of hydrogen sulfide can kill. Long-term, low level exposure can lead to fatigue, dizziness, memory loss, irritability, headaches, loss of appetite and loss of sense of smell.

For 76 of its 77 counties, the state of Oklahoma has air quality standards in place for hydrogen sulfide emissions, with the upper concentration limit at 100 parts per billion. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission also has training requirements in place for employees who may be exposed to hydrogen sulfide while on the job. However, those policies do not apply in Osage County.

“There aren’t any regulations on the books regarding hydrogen sulfide emissions,” Osage County Cattleman’s

Association president Jeff Henry said during a Jan. 26 Negotiated Rulemaking Committee meeting. “There isn’t anyone out here trained with how to deal with it when or if it causes a fire, which means it will most likely be a rural fire department answering that call. What do you think is going to happen when those boys come out here in their cowboy boots to answer that call?”

Hydrogen sulfide is generally burned in a flare stack, used to burn off excess gas released by pressure release valves during unplanned over-pressurization of drilling equipment.

Henry, along with several other land owners and producers, have submitted comments and concerns about their experiences with the gas, including anecdotes of trips to the emergency room because hydrogen sulfide was vented several miles upwind.

“There are ways of handling this when it is produced so that it won’t create these kinds of problems,” University of Tulsa environmental engineering professor Kerry Sublette said. “The way many of the producers are doing it now, it almost like homemade flares.

“If you can see smoke off of the top of a flare stack, it (hydrogen sulfide) is not combusting at all and is likely creating fine particulates and carbon monoxide – a triple whammy, especially since many of these flare stacks are near where people live and work.”

In addition to the potentially lethal consequences for Osage County residents, hydrogen sulfide carries long-term impacts for the local

environment. When improperly burned in a flare stack, it can send sulfuric acid airborne, one of the primary ingredients in acid rain. That in turn, is carried down to the soil and impacts the ground acidity level. The gas is also lethal to the local wildlife if inhaled.

Despite hearing the concerns of Sublette, Henry and others at its January meeting, the Osage Negotiated Rulemaking Committee declined to form specific subcommittees to address the environmental concerns of landowners. Instead, the committee members urged concerned residents, producers and environmental experts to weigh in via written comments and monthly public meetings. The next one is scheduled for Feb. 25-27 at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center at 1449 W. Main St.

“These conversations are valuable, but we’re just too far down the road for a separate subcommittee,” committee member Stephen Manydeeds said. “We do need to make every effort to include them, though.”

In the meantime, Osage County producers and landowners are left to hope the smell of rotten eggs does not lead to something worse.

“The issue that scares the hell out of me is the hydrogen sulfide,” Sublette said. “I am really afraid someone is going to get killed.

“The BIA knows about it, knew about it before the rulemaking hearings and yet nothing’s been done. When someone dies – hopefully no one does – there is going to be hell to pay.”

Poarch Creeks claim sovereign immunity in sacred site dispute

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Citing its sovereign immunity, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians has requested the dismissal of a federal lawsuit stemming from its proposed casino expansion.

Filed Feb 6 in the Middle District of Alabama, the Atmore-based tribe rebutted claims from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that efforts to expand the Poarch Band’s casino near Wetumpka, Ala., violate the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Due to its location, the \$246

million construction project could potentially desecrate Hickory Ground, a burial site, ceremonial ground and the last pre-removal capitol of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. To date, 57 sets of human remains have been unearthed and reburied during the expansion process.

“Because the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is an Indian tribe and the Wetumpka site consists of lands owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the ARPA imposes no permit requirements on any activities undertaken by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians or its members,” wrote attorney David Smith on behalf of the tribe and its business arm, PCI Gaming.

In its filing, the Alabama tribe also maintained that it is in compliance with NAGPRA because the suit is from a tribe rather than the individual descendants of the individuals unearthed during the excavation process.

“Because the plaintiffs (the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Hickory Ground Tribal Town) are not the established lineal descendants of identified individuals whose remains have been recovered from the Wetumpka site, they have no ownership interest in such remains under NAGPRA,” Smith wrote.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has owned the land since 1980. The property was placed into trust in 1984 when the tribe received federal recognition.

A hearing date has not been set on the Poarch Band’s motion. Among the other defendants named in the suit are the tribe’s elected leaders, outgoing Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, Auburn University and several of the tribe’s vendors and contractors on the casino project, including Tulsa, Okla.-based Flintco, LLC.

Tribal attorney arrested on child pornography charges

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WYNNEWOOD, Okla. – The attorney general for one of the two rival Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal governments is out on bail after being arrested on child pornography charges.

The Garvin County, Okla., Sheriff’s Office arrested Jeremy Oliver Feb. 3 for using technology to solicit sexual conduct with a minor, publishing and distributing obscene material and possession of a controlled substance. The first two counts are felonies and each carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. The third count is a misdemeanor and is punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

According to the arrest report, Oliver offered via text message to reduce a client’s fees in exchange for nude photographs or sexual favors from the client’s 13- and 18-year-old daughters, as well as sexual favors from the client. Oliver also sent an obscene photograph of himself to the client while making the request.

A search of his home at the

time of the arrest uncovered several pounds of marijuana and several hundred nude photographs. According to the Garvin County, Okla., Sheriff’s Office, Oliver has been under investigation for weeks.

“From evidence at the residence, there is a real possibility that there may be other victims,” Garvin County, Okla., Sheriff Larry Rhodes said.

Oliver was released from jail Tuesday after a bondsman posted his \$25,000 bail. An arraignment hearing has not been scheduled as of Friday.

A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Oliver is the attorney general for the government led by Leslie Wandrie-Harjo and was previously the general counsel for the tribes’ legislature. The constitutionally-bound tribes have been dealing with a leadership schism for more than two years. Wandrie-Harjo did not respond to requests for comment.

According to Oliver’s LinkedIn account, he is also the general counsel for the Caddo Nation, headquartered in Binger, Okla. When contacted, the tribe did not confirm or deny his employment.



LISA SNELL | NATIVETIMES
Members of Save Hickory Ground are heading to Wetumpka, Alabama, this week to protest the treatment of the sacred site. More info at www.savehickoryground.org

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES
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P.O. Box 411
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0411

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Summit scheduled on Indian foster care

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Indian Child Welfare Act directors from South Dakota’s nine Native American tribes and federal officials are planning a summit focusing on Indian child foster care in the state after allegations surfaced that the state was routinely breaking the law.

The South Dakota Indian Child Welfare Act Directors’ Coalition is working in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to plan the summit, which was announced this week and is scheduled for April 15-17 in Rapid City.

The ICWA directors’ coalition also submitted a report to Congress that details how they believe the state of South Dakota is willfully violating federal law by removing too many American Indian children from their homes and placing them in foster care with non-Indian families.

“We look forward to assisting the coalition to producing a summit that will highlight their priority tools and strategies as they fulfill their responsibilities related to the implementation of ICWA,” said Nedra Darling, spokeswoman for the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs at the Department of

Interior, which oversees the BIA.

The summit and report are in response to a 2011 National Public Radio series that said the state routinely broke the Indian Child Welfare Act and disrupted the lives of hundreds of Native American families each year.

Under federal law, Native American children removed from homes must be placed with relatives or put in foster care with other Native American families except in unusual circumstances.

The three-part NPR report, which was based on an analysis of state records, said a disproportionate number of Native American children removed from their homes in South Dakota each year are sent to foster care in non-Indian homes or group homes. The report also claimed that Native American children are placed in South Dakota’s foster care system at a disproportionate rate.

But state officials have called the NPR stories inaccurate, unfair and biased, but acknowledged a disproportionate number of Native American children are involved in the child welfare system because the state receives more referrals for alleged abuse and neglect involving them.

Following the report, six bipartisan congressmen asked the Department of Interior to

investigate the alleged ICWA violations made in the NPR report and find out what the BIA intended to do if the violations were found to be true.

The BIA said it was planning a summit to address the allegations, but due to various issues, including the resignation of one Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs and the confirmation of another, it never occurred last year.

That’s when the coalition of ICWA directors came together and created their own report and started planning the summit with the help of the BIA.

“You know, it’s been a long time coming,” said Raymond Cournoyer, ICWA director on the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation and co-chair of the ICWA directors’ coalition.

Cournoyer said the summit will include testimony from grandmothers who have worked unsuccessfully to get their grandchildren back from foster care, discussions on tribal codes, best practices and funding strategies, among other things.

Diane Garreau, ICWA director from the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, said it has been frustrating for the ICWA directors that the summit didn’t happen by the original date, but she said she is glad it is happening

now because there are issues that need to be addressed.

“One of the feelings I’ve always had in dealing with the state of South Dakota is they see Native children as different. That they’re not children of South Dakota. They’re identified as Indian children, and that’s really sad, too, because it seems like we’re separate,” she said.

A big part of an ICWA director’s job includes legal work and working with attorneys, which costs money – money that the tribe’s aren’t getting, Garreau said.

One case the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is currently pursuing surrounds a 5-year-old girl attempting to be adopted in Virginia. The girl is the daughter of a man living in Alabama who is enrolled with the tribe. The tribe has been battling to have a say in the adoption, Garreau said, and will go to court in Virginia in May to make their case.

“If we are not on top of it, this is what happens, you know, they try to slip these kids through the cracks,” she said.

Kristin Kellar, spokeswoman for the South Dakota Department of Social Services, said the agency had not yet heard about the ICWA summit and have not yet determined whether the agency will participate.

CUTS

Continued from Page 1

recommendations to every member of Congress. In letters to each member, NCAI is calling on Congress to step forward and work with tribes to support economic security and prosperity for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

In the letter, Keel called on Congress to take immediate action to stop any cuts in the Indian Country budget and urged the federal government not to compromise the federal trust responsibility in any budget deal or sequester replacement:

“Congress will consider ways to address the debt ceiling, the remaining FY 2013 spending bills, sequestration, and the FY 2014 budget, and NCAI urges you to protect Indian program funding while Congress looks for more deficit reduction.

We also urge Congress to not include further cuts to non-defense discretionary programs overall. The approach to deficit reduction has so far been unbalanced. Discretionary programs have contributed \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts from the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution, the bipartisan Budget Control Act, and the bipartisan American Taxpayer Relief Act, while revenues have contributed just \$600 billion. Additional cuts in discretionary programs would put the health, education, safety, and security of all Americans at risk.”

Already working to recover from decades of unmet investment requirements and facing persistent shortfalls, the Indian Country Budget Request highlights funding required to uphold the federal government’s responsibility to tribal nations.

Tribes would experience unsustainable cuts under the proposed sequestration. In the letters , NCAI specifically called for the budget of the Indian Health Service (IHS) to be exempt from any sequestration reductions or at least limited to the 2 percent sequester reduction limit.

IHS provides a wide range of clinical, public health and community services and serves 2.1 million American Indians and Alaska Natives through over 650 hospitals, clinics, and health stations on or near Indian reservations. IHS employs approximately 15,700 people. According to new estimates by the OMB indicates that the IHS and tribal hospitals and clinics would be forced to provide 3,000 fewer inpatient admissions and 804,000 fewer outpatient visits.

Called a “a quiet crisis” in a 2003 report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, funding of the federal trust responsibility for essential tribal government services has been impacted in recent years by efforts to reduce the deficit enacted through the bipartisan Budget Control Act. The authority to fund tribal programs that fulfill the trust responsibility is founded in the Constitution, specifically the Indian Commerce Clause, the Treaty Clause and the Property Clause.

In concluding the letter, Keel stated:

“Tribal programs, as part of the discretionary budget, have already done their part to reduce the deficit through the bipartisan Budget Control Act. Continued cuts will have severe consequences for every tribal citizen. Tribes urge the President and Congress to uphold the solemn promises of the trust responsibility throughout the federal budget in FY 2013 and future years. Further deficit reduction—including cancellation of sequestration through 2021 – must include additional revenues and non-defense discretionary funding should not be cut further. The 2013 sequestration should not be replaced with lowered discretionary caps. In 2013 and beyond, sequestration cuts should be replaced with balanced deficit reduction, including revenues. As the nation continues to debate the appropriate role and size of the federal government and how best to foster a stronger American economy, Indian Country remains committed to the work of rebuilding and shoring up tribal societies, bolstered with the tools of self-determination and self-government.”

BIA to hold town hall on abuse, neglect issues

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – North Dakota’s congressional delegation says that senior Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials have agreed to hold a town hall on the Spirit Lake reservation meeting to update tribal members and officials on issues surrounding child abuse and neglect.

The bureau assumed control of the tribe’s social service programs after criticism that the tribe has failed to protect vulnerable children.

Sen. John Hoeven organized the meeting with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn to provide the delegation with an update on measures taken to address ongoing allegations of child abuse and neglect on the reservation.

Washburn and the officials say they’re working to implement the corrective action plan drafted to address foster care and child protective services on the reservation.

EAGLE

Continued from Page 1

Scott Edberg, with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, has said the department believes the bill would allow the Northern Arapaho Tribe to take eagles outside the reservation.

a heavy toll on livestock. The bill has passed the Senate and is pending in the House.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe has told Craft it supports the bill because it would allow the tribe finally to take eagles for religious purposes.

The tribe last year received a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowing it to take up to two bald eagles a year for religious purposes. Federal officials said it was the first such permit ever issued to a tribe.

The tribe since has argued that the permit is a sham because it bans the killing of eagles on the Wind River Indian Reservation, which the tribe shares with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. State law bans killing eagles outside the reservation.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe continues to press a lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service over the issue. The agency says the reservation ban stems from opposition from the Eastern Shoshone, who have sided with Fish and Wildlife in the legal fight.

Darrell O’Neal Sr., chairman of the Northern Arapaho Business Council, wrote to Craft and her co-sponsors last week expressing the council’s appreciation for the legislation.

“We believe the language of (the bill) will allow the tribe to exercise its rights under an existing federal permit to take up to two bald eagles in the state of Wyoming outside the Wind River

Reservation,” O’Neal said.

“I didn’t know that was going to be an effect of the law. Now that I think about it, that’s probably correct,” said Rep. Patrick Goggles, D-Ethete, a member of the Northern Arapaho and a bill co-sponsor. “But that wasn’t the primary intent of the bill to begin with. That was to provide for falconers.”

Craft said the current state law is inconsistent with Wyoming Game and Fish Commission regulations that would allow master falconers to capture a handful of eagles in designated livestock depredation areas.

“The point of this bill is right now, state statute says there will be no taking of eagles, period, in the state of Wyoming,” she said.

Craft noted that there hasn’t been a designated livestock depredation area in Wyoming for five years. But if her bill passes, she said, a set number of licensed falconers could take up to two eagles each if an area is designated.

Scott Edberg, with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, testified last month that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service transferred authority over sport falconry to the state in July 2011. He said regulations allow only certified master falconers to capture a limited number of golden eagles.

Edberg has said the department believes the bill would allow the Northern Arapaho Tribe to take eagles outside the reservation.

Bryce Reece, with the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, testified that golden eagles can take a toll on young sheep. “For the sheep industry of Wyoming, at certain times of the year, the golden eagle is a bigger problem than coyotes,” he said.

Craft said she would support helping the tribe.

“I feel badly that they’re in that Catch-22, and you always have to be careful when you say, ‘Go ahead and take a bald eagle,’ but this is in respect to their religious rights,” Craft said. “Given that it has provided them a solution, kind of unintentionally, I think I’m OK with that.”

DOI

Continued from Page 1

national parks and other public lands.

In announcing the nomination, Obama said Jewell has earned national recognition for her environmental stewardship at REI, which sells clothing and gear for outdoor enthusiasts. He also noted her experience as an engineer in oil fields and her fondness for mountain climbing.

The toughest part of Jewell’s new job “will probably be sitting behind a desk,” Obama said.

At a White House ceremony Wednesday, Obama said Jewell “knows the link between conservation and good jobs. She knows that there’s no contradiction between being good stewards of the land and our economic progress - that, in fact, those two things need to go hand in hand.”

At REI, Jewell “has shown that a company with more

than \$1 billion in sales can do the right thing for our planet,” Obama said. Last year, REI donated nearly \$4 million to protect trails and parks, and 20 percent of the electricity used in the company’s stores comes from renewable sources.

If confirmed by the Senate, Jewell, 56, would replace current Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who has announced he will step down in March.

Jewell said she was “humbled and energized” at the prospect of leading Interior, which manages more than 500 million acres in national parks and other public lands, as well as more than 1 billion acres offshore. The department oversees energy, mining operations and recreation and provides services to 566 federally recognized Indian tribes.

“I have a great job at REI today, but there’s no role that compares to the call to serve my country as secretary of the Department of Interior,” she said.

Jewell was born in England but moved to the Seattle area

before age 4. She has led Kent, Wash.-based REI since 2005. She served as chief operating officer for five years before taking the top job and worked for nearly two decades in commercial banking before that. She also has worked as an engineer for Mobil Oil Corp.

Jewell emerged as a frontrunner for the Interior post in recent days, edging out better-known Democrats such as former Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire and former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter. The Interior job traditionally has gone to politicians from Western states. Salazar was a Colorado senator before taking over at Interior in 2009.

Jewell donated \$5,000 to Obama’s re-election effort and has supported other Democrats, campaign finance records show.

Jewell is the first woman Obama has nominated for his second-term Cabinet and a prominent representative from the business community, addressing two criticisms Obama has faced.

While relatively unknown in political circles, Jewell is no stranger to the White House. In 2011, she introduced Obama at a White House conference on the “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative, noting that the \$289 billion outdoor-recreation industry supports 6.5 million jobs. She also appeared at a 2009 White House event on health care.

Jewell, who won the Audubon Society’s 2009 Rachel Carson Award for Environmental Conservation, was hailed by environmental and business groups alike.

Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune called her a champion in the effort to connect children with nature and said she has “a demonstrated commitment to preserving the higher purposes public lands hold for all Americans - recreation, adventure, and enjoyment.”

Tim Wigley, president of the Western Energy Alliance, which represents the oil and natural gas industry, said Jewell’s experience as a petroleum engineer and

business leader “will bring a unique perspective to an office that is key to our nation’s energy portfolio.”

Jewell, who is married with two grown children, was paid more than \$2 million as REI’s CEO in 2011. She contributed \$5,000 to the Obama Victory Fund, a joint fundraising committee set up by Obama and the Democratic Party, according to federal election records. She has contributed to numerous Democrats in her home state, including Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, as well as Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., and both of Alaska’s senators, Democrat Mark Begich and Republican Lisa Murkowski.

Cantwell, Udall and Murkowski all serve on the Senate energy panel, which will consider Jewell’s nomination.

Jewell also was on the board of directors of Avista Corp., a Spokane-based power utility, from 1997 through 2003. U.S. Securities and Exchange documents show that in her last full year as an Avista

board member, Jewell held more than 15,600 shares in the utility and received \$50,000 in director’s fees.

In 2004, federal prosecutors charged that Avista played a role in a 2000 deal that allowed then-energy giant Enron to sell a \$3 million turbine to the northwest utility firm. Prosecutors did not criminally charge Avista, but said the utility agreed to buy the turbine before a larger deal was completed - a move that aided Enron in hiding the turbine deal from its auditors.

Avista was not criminally charged in the Enron indictment and none of the utility’s officials, including Jewell, were cited in the charges.

—

Associated Press writers Jack Gillum and Stephen Braun in Washington and Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Wash., contributed to this report.

Complaint: Ban American Indian mascots in schools

ALANNA DURKIN
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – The Michigan Department of Civil Rights filed a complaint Friday with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, asking to ban the use of American Indian mascots and imagery in K-12 school because it denies equal rights to American Indian students.

Supporters say the mascots are a way to celebrate American Indian history and traditions and preserve the group’s culture. But according to the complaint, new evidence suggests the use of the mascots “reinforces stereotypes,” negatively impacting American Indian students’ self-esteem, student learning and achievement.

The complaint cites 35 Michigan school districts “responsible for the alleged discrimination.” However, a federal ruling for the Michigan department could have broader reach, spurring a nationwide ban on the use of such mascots and imagery in school districts that receive federal funds.

Daniel Levy, the director of law and policy for MDCR, wrote in the complaint that recent studies now provide a “legal basis” to prohibit the use of American Indian imagery and mascots by proving the mascots cause “actual

harm” to American Indian students. Previously, the only way to make a legal case against the use of the mascots was to prove harassment, Director of Public Affairs for MDCR Leslee Fritz said. The department either had to show bad intention on the part of the school or that the use of the mascot is “universally offensive” – “a difficult thing to do,” she said.

Last year, the Oregon Board of Education banned the use of American Indian mascots in the state, citing the research as “key” in their decision.

Mark Dombroksi, superintendent for the Cheboygan Area School District, said he believes the district has used the “chiefs” mascot since the schools opened in the late 1890s. He said the community is heavily populated by American Indians and called the mascot a “sense of pride to the local community.”

U.S. Department of Education spokesman Jim Bradshaw said the Office of Civil Rights has received the complaint and referred it to the Cleveland office, which handles matters involving Michigan. He said the office has not yet reviewed the document.

Fritz said the department chose to file the complaint at the federal level “to help every student at one time.”

Cooperstown, NY students vote to nix Redskins nickname

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP) – The school in the upstate New York hometown of the author of “The Last of the Mohicans” is dropping its Redskins nickname.

The Daily Star of Oneonta reports that middle and high school students in Cooperstown voted early last week to replace the nickname that goes back to the 1920s.

The top vote-getters for a new nickname include Deerslayers, Hawkeyes and Pathfinders, the names of characters in some

of the frontier novels written in the 19th century by James Fenimore Cooper, who was raised in the upstate village founded by his father.

The board’s president says they will ultimately decide on the new nickname.

The name change proposal was brought to the board and school administrators by students who said they found the Redskins nickname offensive to American Indians.

NICKNAME

Continued from Page 1

Panelists and audience members explained why they felt the name was offensive and offered all sorts of ideas – including a protest at training camp and the need to get franchise quarterback Robert Griffin III to speak out – that might persuade team owner Dan Snyder that a change is needed.

Holland was convinced. He was one of the few in the partisan crowd who showed up liking the name. As he listened, he started tweeting – and he said the feedback he got opened his eyes, along the panels’ presentations about the history of insensitive mascots such as “Little Red,” who used to dance at University of Oklahoma games. Also under scrutiny was a red-skinned image named “Mr. Yakoo” used by the North Quincy Red Raiders at a high school in Massachusetts.

Near the end of the final session, Holland went to the microphone and compared Redskins to the n-word, then turned around and gave a hug to the Native American standing next in line.

“A serious day for me,” Holland said.

Organizers say the Redskins did not respond to an invitation to participate, and no one stood up to defend the Redskins name when the audience was invited to participate.

There has been momentum toward changing names deemed offensive, although Snyder has been adamant that he’s not going to join the trend. On Tuesday, Washington Mayor Vincent Gray specifically avoided saying the name of franchise in his State of

the District speech and instead referred to “our Washington football team.”

In 2005, the NCAA announced it would ban the use of American Indian imagery and nicknames at postseason tournaments. Some schools have since been granted exceptions with the support of tribes, such as the Florida State Seminoles.

The latest to make the switch are the students at Cooperstown high school in upstate New York, who voted this week to ditch their “Redskins” nickname. The school, located in the hometown of “The Last of the Mohicans” author James Fenimore Cooper, is considering “Deerslayers,” “Hawkeyes” and “Pathfinders” as alternatives.

Suzan Shown Harjo, president of the Washington-based Morning Star Institute, an advocacy group, said there are some 900 troublesome nicknames and mascots across the country, down from a peak of more than 3,000 when “Little Red” was taken off the field in the early 1970s.

“We consider it racial profiling,” former Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell said. “I think more and more people are recognizing it.”

The best chance to change Snyder’s mind would likely be to hit him in the pocketbook by getting the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to void the Redskins trademark. A group of American Indians made progress on that front during a 17-year court battle that came to a halt in 2009 because it was ruled that the plaintiffs waited too long to file their original case. There is now a new case filed by younger plaintiffs that is due for a hearing next month.

COMMENTARY ▼

Signing off after more than 30 years

NOTES FROM INDIAN



COUNTRY
TIM GIAGO
(Nanwica Kciji)
© Unity South Dakota

We all, eventually, reach that point in our lives when it is time to move on.

For more than 30 years I have spent each Sunday morning listening to National Public Radio with a piping cup of coffee at hand while I racked my brain to turn out an interesting and meaningful weekly column. And then all of a sudden what used to be a column is now a blog. It is then that I realize how fast the world has turned and what was new yesterday is now blurred by the swift acting technology that changes, it seems, by the hour.

I think there is some truth in the saying that “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” Try as I might to adjust to the rapidity of change in life and technology they still tend to overwhelm me. I don’t have a Kindle or a Nook even though it appears that these are the devices that will replace books. I still enjoy sitting in a comfortable chair with a cup of hot tea reading a good book. As I am now at the end of my life, I believe I shall continue to do things the old fashioned way because this is the joy I have remaining.

News never stops happening and as a former newspaper publisher I know that people make news whether it is at night or on a holiday and it is the job of a newspaper reporter to be out there and to get the facts for the readers. But in today’s world news comes at you from so many

directions and in such varied formats that at times it can be stifling.

When I take my son Tim to lunch he is on his cell phone reading the news to me almost as fast as it occurs. News seems to come in sound bites and snippets. Newspapers all over America are going head to head with this ever changing technology and surprisingly some are not only surviving, but growing and winning. I guess there are folks out there that still believe in getting their news the old fashioned way.

I have often wondered what I would write about when I sat down to write my last column. For more than 30 years I have glimpsed the world of Indian country as it ebbed and flowed. And I have attempted to capture those changes in my weekly columns and in the pages of the newspapers I have been honored to publish.

Over the years there has been a balance of good news to bad news. I have written about triumphs and tragedies. I have written about high expectations and sad disappointments. My columns have at times been praised or torn apart with scorn. In any event, I have always maintained the courage of my convictions. I have written about topics the main stream media never covers with high hopes of giving them a lead to do so.

A column I wrote in 1985 about Christmas on the Pine Ridge Reservation won the South Dakota Newspaper Association’s Best Column of the Year Award and then went on to win the H. L. Mencken Award from the Baltimore Sun.

I know there is one person who will miss my weekly columns. His name is Bill Dulaney and he is a retired professor of journalism from Penn State. In my last conversation with Bill he told me that his battle with cancer is about over. The cancer has now gone to his brain and that brilliant instrument that guided him through a career in journalism is about to

grow dim. In 1983 Bill and I put our heads together and came up with the idea of a Native American Journalists Association to emulate the other great minority journalist associations. We succeeded in this endeavor with the support and guidance of Allen Neuharth, then the head of the Gannett Foundation. Twenty nine years later the association is still strong and viable.

It was never a challenge to find material every week because there was always something either good or bad happening in Indian country. In fact there were times when I had to sort through the material offered in order to choose the subject I thought to be the most tantalizing.

But I believe that one of the most important things my weekly column accomplished was to take on the closed media in South Dakota in the 1980s and cause them to open their news pages to more positive news concerning Native Americans in their state. I wrote at the time that South Dakota was like the proverbial mule: you had to hit it between the eyes with a two-by-four in order to get its attention.

My columns and my newspapers earned me a seat on the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame and on the South Dakota Hall of Fame. Not bad for a little Indian boy from Kyle on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

To those who have read my columns for more than 30 years I say “wopila” (Thank you) for your faithful support and guidance. 30 used to be the sign off sign for ending a column or a news story. This column is my 30.

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, was born, raised and educated on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in the Class of 1991. He was inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2007. He can be reached at Unitysodak1@knology.net

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com or mailed to PO Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification. Letters will be published as space is available.

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EVENTS

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*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY
The Veterans’ Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee

Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

FEBRUARY 15-16
Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864
Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

FEBRUARY 16
Gathering of Eagles Dance at Watchetaker Hall, Comanche Nation Complex, 8 miles north of Lawton. Gourd Dancing at 1pm; supper at 5pm; Round Dancing & Social at 6pm. Info call Denese 580-365-4238 (after 5pm)

Benefit Dance sponsored by Tonkawa Scalp Dance Society at Fort Oakland Reserve/Tonkawa, OK. For more information & details, call Marie at 580/716-5326. Purpose is to help support Chilocco 70s group pay for evening meal

on May 31st, 2013, at the Chilocco Reunion Dance.

FEBRUARY 17
GivesWater Service Club of the Ponca Tribe Dance all Gourd Dance at whiteEagle Cultural Center in Ponca City. M.C. Oliver Littlecook; Head man Dancer, Dwain Camp; Head Lady Dancer Bailey Leading Fox; Head singer, Ryan Roanhorse. For more info call Steven Littlecook at 580/491/4126 or email roubedeauxoney@aol.com

FEBRUARY 22-23
Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864
Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

MARCH 2
Seminole Hitchitee United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner. All you can eat, Adults - \$10, Children - \$7. 1:00 am – 3:00 pm, Seminole Community Center (by the park), Seminole, OK For more information contact: Pastor Rick Deer (405) 667-3152

Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

MARCH 16
Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or

swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

Native High School All-Star Game, Shawnee, Okla. Info email michael.logan@potawatomi.org

MARCH 22
2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 23
Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

APRIL 6
American Indian Leadership Youth Council Of Broken Bow Public Schools 17th Annual Spring Pow Wow. Contests, Stickball, Gourd Dancing. For more information please contact: Monica Billy (580) 584-3365 ext. 4069 or Katrina Anderson (580) 236-1280

Oklahoma City University Spring Contest Powwow at Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave. on University campus. Drum contest and dance contests. Doors open at noon. Info call Chris Roman Nose 405-208-5750 or CRomannose@okcu.edu

MAY 7-8
Mother Earth’s People Inter-tribal Council Powwow
Mojave Narrows Regional Park, 18000 Yates Road, Victorville, CA.

SENATE

Continued from Page 1

The National Congress of American Indians says that 39 percent of Indian and Alaska Native women will be subject to violence by an intimate partner.

and defeat, a substitute by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, that would have altered the provision on tribal courts. Grassley, saying subjecting non-Indians to Indian courts would raise significant constitutional problems, instead proposed that more federal prosecutors and magistrates be placed in Indian country for domestic violence and sexual assault cases. He would also have allowed tribes to petition a federal court for protection orders to exclude an abuser from Indian land.

How to deal with the alarming level of violence against women on tribal lands, often perpetrated by non-Indian partners, was also a major sticking point last year when the Senate and House passed different bills.

The Senate bill would recognize tribal authority to prosecute non-Indians who commit domestic violence against their Indian spouses or partners.

Indian women often live hours and hours away from the nearest federal prosecutor, said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a key supporter, and for those abusing women in these isolated places that “equates to nothing short of a safe haven for them.”

The National Congress of American Indians says that 39 percent of Indian and Alaska Native women will be subject to violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes, well

above rates for other races. It says U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute half of violent crimes in Indian country, and two-thirds of those cases involved sexual abuse.

“Let’s not undercut the provisions to help protect Indian woman,” said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. “The best legal views of which I am aware believe these provisions are both constructive and constitutional.”

Grassley’s amendment, which would also have taken steps to reduce fraud and overspending in programs covered by the Violence Against Women Act and tighten rules that govern immigrants subject to domestic abuse, was defeated 65-34.

The House last year took a similar approach to the Grassley amendment and also removed language specifying that lesbians, gays and bisexual and transgender victims should have equal access to VAWA-funded services.

A possible solution to the Indian court issue has been offered by Republican Reps. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, one of three House members of Indian heritage, and Darrell Issa, R-Calif. They have proposed giving non-Indians the right to request that their case be moved to a federal court if they feel they are not receiving a fair trial.

Cole, in an interview, said he was meeting with House Majority Leader Cantor, R-Va., and others involved on the issue and there was a “genuine effort to find common ground.” He said that one in three Native American women is subject to sexual assault in her lifetime, often by a non-Indian, and that federal authorities often are too far away to help. Cole called it “bizarre” that tribal leaders were unable to pursue cases.

Cantor, the lead player in crafting the House bill, said Wednesday he had been having daily meetings on how best to move the bill forward, and had been in touch with the office of Vice President Joe Biden, who as a senator was a lead sponsor of the original 1994 bill.

Speaking on the House floor, Cantor said that “while we want to protect the women who are subject to abuse on tribal lands,” the bill had been “complicated” by other issues. “I hope to be able to deal with this, bring it up in an expeditious manner.”

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., on Thursday urged Republicans to act quickly, saying that every minute Congress delays another 24 Americans become victims of domestic violence.

Under the existing law, the federal government provides grants to states and local governments for services such as transitional housing, legal assistance and law enforcement training. This has helped increase rates of prosecution and conviction of offenders by helping communities develop dedicated law enforcement units for domestic violence. VAWA’s National Domestic Violence Hotline receives more than 22,000 calls a month. The law also established the Office on Violence Against Women within the Justice Department.

The Senate bill would authorize \$659 million over five years for the programs, down 17 percent from the last reauthorization in 2005. The bill also gives more emphasis to sexual assault prevention and takes steps to reduce the rape kit backlog.

It removes a provision that Republicans objected to last year that would have increased visas for immigrant victims of domestic violence.

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Note: Not all medicine wheels are the same from tribe to tribe. This medicine wheel is intended to be a general representation and does not refer to a specific tribe's symbol of the four directions.

Osage Casino partners with Tulsa WNBA team

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – The Tulsa Shock announced a multi-year partnership with Osage Casino Jan. 31.

Starting with the 2013 season, Osage Casino will be the marquee sponsor of Tulsa’s Women’s National Basketball Association team. The casino’s logo will be prominently featured on the team’s home and away jerseys, as well as on signage at the BOK Center during Shock home games. The casino had been a sponsor of the team since it relocated to Tulsa from Detroit before the 2010 season.



OSAGE CASINO | COURTESY
The Tulsa Shock’s new home uniform with Osage Casino as the marquee sponsor

“We are taking this relationship to the next level,” WNBA President Laurel Ritchie said. “This partnership

has the potential to be bigger and bolder than what we imagined. The Shock and Osage Casino were already holding hands – this is just squeezing a little tighter.”

“This partnership will have several benefits for Osage Casino and the Osage Nation,” Osage Casino CEO Neil Cornelius said. “This will significantly increase our visibility. Wherever you see the Tulsa Shock, you’ll see Osage Casino.”

Terms of the multi-year contract were not disclosed. The Shock is the seventh WNBA team to enter into a marquee partnership agreement. Other companies with similar agreements include Farmers Insurance, bing.com and LifeLock, who are partnered with the Los Angeles Sparks, Seattle Storm and Phoenix Mercury respectively.

With the announcement, Osage Casino is now the only tribally-owned entity to be a presenting sponsor of a professional sports team. The WNBA’s Connecticut Sun, based in Uncasville, Conn., is owned by the Mohegan Tribe and plays at the tribe’s Mohegan Sun casino. However, logos for the tribe and its casino do not appear on the team’s jerseys.

“Tulsa is the smallest market among the WNBA teams but with this announcement, other teams are sitting up and taking notice,” Shock managing owner Sam Combs said. “We continue to be the little engine that could through outreach efforts across the state.”

Osage Casino operates seven facilities in Osage County. Its flagship location in north Tulsa is the closest casino to the BOK Center.

The 2013 Shock home opener is scheduled for May 27 at 2 p.m. at the BOK Center and will be televised on ESPN as part of a doubleheader. The team has the No. 3 pick in the 2013 draft on April 15.

Chickasaw gaming arm, casino owner sue each other over purchase deal

JEFF AMY
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) – An Oklahoma Indian tribe and the bankrupt owner of two DiamondJacks casinos are suing each other over the collapse of the tribe’s plan to buy the gambling halls.

Global Gaming Solutions, a unit of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, wants a federal bankruptcy judge to declare that it didn’t break its agreement to buy gambling halls in Bossier City, La., and Vicksburg, Miss., from Legends Gaming. The tribe said in court papers Feb. 5 that Legends’ lack of investment in the casinos led to a business decline, breaking the deal, and Global should get back its \$6.25 million deposit.

Legends said in a Feb. 6 filing that Global’s failure to complete the \$125 million purchase was an “egregious

and intentional” contract breach. Legends wants to keep the \$6.25 million and seeks further damages.

The tribe said Legends had agreed to keep up its business, projecting it would spend \$300,000 a month on maintenance and improvements, but only spent a combined \$100,000 from July through October 2012.

“The debtors failed to invest in necessary capital expenditures, and, further, failed to invest in even the most basic maintenance capital and operating expenses...,” Global wrote in its request seeking return of the \$6.25 million.

Legends wrote in court papers that it negotiated with Global even before the bankruptcy, and that the deal ultimately reached makes clear the tribe was to buy the casinos on an “as is” and “where is” basis “with all faults.” The owner said Global assumed the risk that the business would further decline before the purchase was complete.

“Global was at all times aware of the debtors’ financial condition,” Legends wrote.

Legends said the tribe’s objection that the plan was unfeasible because the casinos weren’t bringing in enough to repay the deal’s \$100 million in debt was a “cynical ploy” that “blatantly violated its express obligations” to try to complete the purchase.

Legends filed for bankruptcy citing \$298 million in debts. The Vicksburg casino employs more than 300 people, according to the most recent numbers reported to regulators. The Bossier City casino employs more than 600.

William McEnery owns 92 percent of Legends shares. His Chicago-area gas station group – Gas City – was sold off in bankruptcy court in 2011. McEnery has been forced into personal bankruptcy as well.

Okla. cigarettes seized in New York

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

SENECA FALLS, N.Y. – Federal officials recently seized more than 500 cases of cigarettes produced and sold by an Oklahoma tribe at an upstate New York service station.

Officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms confiscated the cases of Skydancer cigarettes and \$500,000 on Jan. 15 after investigating the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe for not collecting excise taxes on sales to non-tribal citizens. The tribe produces the cigarettes near Grove, Okla., and owns the service station in question where the cigarettes were sold.

Under New York state law, packs of cigarettes are subject to a \$4.35 per pack sales tax unless sold to tribal citizens or on tribal land. In New York City, the rate increases to \$5.85 per pack.

No arrests or charges have been filed in the raid.

Earlier this year, the tribe submitted a land-into-trust application for 229 acres in Cayuga and Seneca counties in upstate New York. The service station is on a parcel of land included in the application, which is still pending and has been subject to criticism from local officials, as well as U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.).

“I urge the federal government to oppose any land into trust applications that do not reflect the concerns of local and state officials, businesses and residents who would be adversely affected by the land’s tax-exempt status,” Schumer said Monday. “Communities across Cayuga and Seneca counties have not agreed to this land into trust bid and the Bureau of Indian Affairs must reject it because it would create a checker boarding of jurisdiction, and would harm upstate New York’s local tax base, its businesses, and its future economic development.”

Calls to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe for comment were not returned.

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Tribally-owned GEObet Network is hosting a free conference for tribal nations interested in establishing and managing online gaming operations beginning at 9 a.m., February 18 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa.

GEObet Network hosting important iGaming conference for all Native Tribal Nations in the Western Hemisphere

TSUU TINA NATION, Alberta, Canada – Tribal-owned GEObet Network is to host the Oklahoma Tribes & GEObet iGaming Conference on February 18th. This free event, to be held at the Cherokee Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa at 9 a.m., will serve up invaluable insight and practical advice for Native Tribal Nations on establishing and managing successful iGaming operations.

As well as expert panel discussions and Q&A sessions, iGaming speakers will include Claude Sumner, Ambassador for the GEObet Network, John Danner, the network’s Advocate, and Walter Janvier, Vice-President of North American Business Investment and Relations at GEObet. A keynote speech will be delivered at the one-day event by Bernard Shepherd, Chief Executive Officer of Northern Bear Casino, which became the first real-money

North American online tribal casino when it launched in November.

Gerry Gionet, founder of the GEObet Network said: “This conference offers a tremendous opportunity for tribal casino groups to hear from industry experts as well as share ideas and business strategies when it comes to making the important move into the world of iGaming. We expect a strong turnout from the Tribes of Oklahoma and also from the neighboring states. We are extending this invitation to all tribal and first nations groups across USA and Canada.”

Gionet will showcase GEObet’s portfolio of casino products, including award-winning casino slots with the highest jackpot payouts in the world, to poker, bingo and other games. He will also demonstrate how tribes, even those without a land-based casino, can enter into online gaming under the GEObet

Network without the need for up-front costs or major investments as well as how to navigate the path from free-play to real-money games.

Experts and business leaders from online gaming will discuss where, when and how fast iGaming is progressing and how it relates to the 36 Tribes of Oklahoma and elsewhere. Key topics on the agenda include the status of iGaming internationally, legal issues for free-play and real-money play, and techniques to achieve Tribal Nation goals.

Gionet pinpoints 2013 as being a critical period for Tribal casinos. “Nevada casinos are on the cusp of launching their businesses online so it’s imperative that tribal nations are able to protect their interests and compete on an equal footing by offering customers the opportunity to play in their casinos on the Internet.”

The GEObet Network, is

operated by OlympianGroup. Eu under agreement with North Star Ent Ltd is licensed in Malta, Curacao and Kahnawake, is an online gambling technology and services provider that strives to bring Native American tribal casinos online in order to compliment their land-based operations.

For more information or to register for the conference, email Vanessa Gionet at vanessa@ga-ww.com

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For sponsorship info email keewatingroup@gmail.com.

About the GEObet Network: The GEObet Network, operated by OlympianGroup. eu under agreement with North Star Entertainment Ltd, provides a 100% turnkey iGaming solution for tribal and independent land-based

casino operators. GEObet.com, launched in September 2011, is the first iGaming brand operating on the network. Created by respected tribal business leaders and managed by a top international team of industry veterans, the GEObet Network offers a simple and cost effective way to have a world class online business operating in less than 90 days. With its industry leading and award winning online gaming products, the GEObet Network enables casino operators to defend and retain their customer base against online raiding by the major casino consortiums. Licensed internationally in Malta, Curacao and Kahnawake, the turnkey system expands both land based and online casino business with complete legal compliance and virtually zero cost of development.

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Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 7 FEBRUARY 22, 2013



NATIVE TIMES FILE PHOTO

Wayland Gray, seen here Feb. 9 during an Idle No More-styled rally in Tulsa, Okla., is being held on a \$30,000 cash-only bond in the Elmore County, Ala., jail on an alleged terrorist threat charge.

Creek protestor faces federal charges on alleged terrorist threat

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WETUMPKA, Ala. – What started out as a peaceful attempt to pray at a sacred site last week has ended in four arrests – and one charge of allegedly uttering a terrorist threat.

Four men were arrested Feb. 15 for trespassing after trying to lead a prayer service at a controversial casino expansion project.

Along with several citizens of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, members of the Hickory Ground Tribal Town in Oklahoma, part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, traveled to the expansion site of the PBCI's Wind Creek Casino to conduct a ceremony in honor of their ancestors who were once buried there. The group had requested the construction be halted a day to allow the group to conduct the prayer ceremony without interruption, but was denied by Poarch Band officials. The four were

arrested after they walked onto the casino property. Hickory Ground Tribal Town members Mike Harjo and Michael Deo, along with a Cherokee man who only publicly identified himself with a nickname, were released from the Elmore County, Ala., jail by 4:30 p.m. Friday.

A fourth protestor, Hickory Ground Tribal Town member Wayland Gray, was detained due to additional allegations from PBCI officials that he made terrorist threats against the facility and its management. He is being held on a \$30,000 cash only bond. Brendan Ludwick, legal counsel for the Tribal Town, told Native Times that Gray's alleged threat was something he said while being arrested. According to Ludwick, Gray told officers that 'he would be back to pray for his ancestors after this place (the casino) was torn down,' referring to a federal lawsuit filed in December against the tribe to halt construction

See **CREEK** Continued on Page 6

Senate votes to renew VAWA

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – A Feb. 12 Senate vote to renew the Violence Against Women Act has many across Indian Country breathing a little easier.

"The Senate's reauthorization is a great thing for Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Native Americans," CPN vice chairman Linda Capps said. "The fact is

that Native American women face a domestic violence rate at more than twice the national average. We have a responsibility to protect the women of our communities from violence. This act empowers our courts to protect the mothers, daughters and sisters of our great tribe and community."

First passed in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act is credited with reducing

domestic violence rates by two-thirds nationwide. It was renewed in 2000 and 2005 with bipartisan support and was brought forward for renewal in 2012 during the 112th Congress before stalling in the House of Representatives. Sen. Patrick Leahy (I-Vt.) reintroduced the bill last month with 61 co-sponsoring senators.

If enacted, the version passed by the Senate last week will

provide a limited expansion of tribal jurisdiction by allowing tribal courts to prosecute non-Natives accused of domestic violence or date-related violence against Native women on Indian land rather than passing those cases on to federal officials. That jurisdiction would not extend to crimes committed on non-tribal land or to crimes outside

See **VAWA** Continued on Page 4



NATIVE TIMES FILE PHOTO

Walkers and volunteers release purple helium-filled balloons in honor of domestic violence victims to conclude the Six Nations Walking Together Against Domestic Violence event held Oct. 26 at the Standing Bear Museum and Cultural Center in Ponca City, Okla. According to the Indian Law Resource Center, non-Natives are responsible for 88 percent of all crimes committed against Native women.

Keel addresses women's security issues

■ **House Republican leaders are working on their own version of VAWA, which expired in 2011.**

SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – The president of the National Congress of American

Indians urged the House on Feb. 14 to pass the Violence Against Women Act so Native Americans and Alaska Natives can "protect their own people and surrounding communities against brutality."

Jefferson Keel's appeal followed Senate passage on Tuesday of the act that continues to allow funding for domestic violence programs and victims support. The bill, which the

Senate approved on a 78-22 vote, would allow American Indian courts to prosecute and sentence suspects in domestic violence cases who are not American Indians.

Keel made the remark in the State of the Indian Nations address at the Newseum in Washington. The annual address followed President Barack Obama's delivery Tuesday of the State of the Union. Obama

also urged the House to pass the Violence Against Women Act in his speech.

"There is nothing more important to tribal leaders than the safety and well-being of tribal citizens," said Keel, a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.

House Republican leaders are working on their own version of the act, which expired in 2011.

See **KEEL** Continued on Page 4

Landowner asks \$3.9M for part of Wounded Knee site

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – One of the country's poorest Native American tribes wants to buy a historically significant piece of land where 300 of their ancestors were killed, but tribal leaders say the nearly \$4 million price tag for a property appraised at less than \$7,000 is just too much.

James Czywczynski is trying to sell a 40-acre fraction of the Wounded Knee National Historic Landmark on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The land sits adjacent to a gravesite where about 150 of the 300 Lakota men, women and children killed by the 7th Cavalry in 1890 are buried.

Czywczynski, whose family has owned the property since 1968, recently gave the tribe an ultimatum: purchase the land for \$3.9 million or he will open up bidding to non-Native Americans. He said he has been trying to sell the land to the tribe for years.

The ultimatum comes right before the tribe is poised to receive about \$20 million from the Cobell lawsuit – a \$3.4 billion settlement stemming from a class-action lawsuit filed over American Indian land royalties mismanaged by the government for more than a century.

"I think it's ridiculous that he's putting a price on it like that," said Kevin Yellow Bird Steele, a tribal council representative from the

Wounded Knee district, who thinks Czywczynski is putting pressure on the tribe because of the impending money. "We need to come down to earth and be realistic. We're not rich. We're not a rich tribe."

Czywczynski insists the site's historical significance adds value.

Along with its proximity to the burial grounds, the land includes the site of a former trading post burned down during the 1873 Wounded Knee uprising, in which hundreds of American Indian Movement protesters occupied the town built at the site of the 1890 massacre. The 71-day standoff that left two tribal members dead and a federal



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

This Feb. 7, 2012, photo shows a cross on a grave at the Wounded Knee National Historic landmark in South Dakota. James Czywczynski, 74, is trying to sell a 40-acre fraction of the landmark for \$3.9 million to the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

See **LAND** Continued on Page 2

LAND

gent seriously wounded is credited with raising awareness about Native American struggles and giving rise to a wider protest movement that lasted the rest of the decade.

Czywczyński, who also is trying to sell another 40-acre piece of nearby land to the tribe for \$1 million, also noted a coalition of Sioux tribes raised \$9 million in December to buy land about 100 miles away in the Black Hills — although the Oglala Sioux Tribe did not contribute to that effort.

"I'm getting older now and my family and myself want to dispose of this property," said Czywczynski, 75, who now lives in Rapid City. "We just want to see it in the hands of the Indian people rather than put it on the open market to the public."

Craig Dillon, a tribal council member on the Land Committee, said he would like to see the tribe buy the land at Wounded Knee because then they could build a museum commemorating the massacre with artifacts, food vendors and a place for local artists to sell their art to visitors.

"But with the price the way it is, I don't think the tribe could ever buy it," Dillon said.

DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – South Dakota corrections officials on Thursday appealed a federal judge's decision that reinstated Native American inmates' ability to use tobacco for religious ceremonies.

An organization of Native American inmates sued the state in 2009 after prison officials eliminated an exception to the prison's smoke-free policy that allowed tobacco use during Native American ceremonies. Chief Judge Karen Schreier ruled in September that

the prison system's ban substantially burdens Native American inmates' religious rights, and ordered state officials and members of the Native American Council of Tribes to submit suggested revisions.

Corrections officials agreed in their suggested revisions to allow tobacco at pipe ceremonies but wanted to prohibit its use in tobacco ties, prayer flags and inside the prison's sweat lodge. Schreier ruled in late January that tobacco should be permitted in all those circumstances.

“Plaintiffs demonstrated at trial that tobacco ties and prayer flags which include tobacco play an important role in the exercise of their religion,” she wrote.

Pamela Bollweg, the inmates' attorney, said she's disappointed that the state continues to deny Native American inmates their right to use tobacco as part of their traditional ceremonies.

“We’ll continue to work to vindicate our clients’ rights for religious freedom,” she said Thursday.

Attorney James Moore filed the

appeal with the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday. Moore did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Schreier in her ruling agreed with one state limitation, capping the amount of tobacco that could be mixed with other botanicals at 1 percent. Members of prison-based Native American Council of Tribes had wanted to be able to go up to 10 percent tobacco in their mixtures, but Schreier said they didn't provide any rationale on why that much was needed.

Schreier in her ruling also said that the tobacco used for smoking does not have to be ground, but she required that it be ground when used for ties and flags. She denied the state's request to limit inmates to only cherry-blend tobacco.

The state argued that the policy was not overly restrictive because it allowed other botanicals, such as red willow bark, to be burned.

The South Dakota prison system went tobacco-free in 2000 but made an exception for Native American ceremonies. Officials in October 2009 eliminated that exemption,

saying tobacco was being sold or bartered and inmates had been caught separating it from their pipe mixtures and tobacco ties.

Members of the Native American Council of Tribes sued after the exemption was eliminated, saying the policy change violated their U.S. constitutional rights ensuring that no prisoner be penalized or discriminated against for their religious beliefs or practices. Inmates Blaine Brings Plenty and Clayton Creek argued that for Native American prayer to be effective, it must be embodied in tobacco and offered within a ceremonial framework.

The U.S. Justice Department weighed in last July, saying in a brief that the state's position ran contrary to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

Schreier said in September that even if state officials had valid concerns that prompted them to change the policy, they should have used less restrictive means than an overall ban.

MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) – A federal appeals court on Thursday upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit that accused Nebraska prison officials of reneging on a 2005 agreement to accommodate Native American inmates' religious and cultural needs.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom's Feb. 6 dismissal of the complaint, brought by inmate Michael Joseph Sims. Urbom said he had no jurisdiction to enforce

the terms of the agreement, but suggested the case be filed in a state court.

On Thursday, the appeals court stated simply that it had “carefully reviewed the record and Sims’s brief, we find no error warranting reversal.”

In the 2005 settlement, prison officials agree to allow Native American inmates time for religious education and worship ceremonies and the ability to use traditional ceremonial foods such as fry bread, buffalo, corn and “berry dish” in their ceremonies.

Sims said in his complaint that state prison leaders have

not allowed those ceremonial foods, have denied access to eagle feathers for ceremonial use and have repeatedly changed policies, provisions, access, spiritual educational classes and schedules without agreement from Native American inmates, as required by the 2005 settlement.

Prison officials also removed ceremonial stones from a sweat lodge at the prison, Sims' lawsuit said.

Sims, who is serving a life sentence at the Nebraska State Penitentiary for first-degree murder, also sought to reinstate use of tobacco in

certain ceremonies, saying prison officials allow it in certain areas at the Community Correctional Centers in Lincoln and Omaha.

Sims served as his own attorney and could not be reached Thursday for comment.

A Nebraska Department of Correctional Services spokeswoman said Thursday that she was trying to reach prison system attorneys to answer Associated Press questions about whether officials have restricted Native American inmates' ceremonies.

Prison officials have previously declined to answer questions about whether Native American inmates are given ceremonial foods and eagle feathers for religious rites or whether prison employees removed ceremonial stones from the prison-based sweat lodge.

“The Department takes great pride in respecting the religious rights of all individuals,” director of state correctional services Bob Houston said in a written statement Thursday. “We have a multi-disciplinary religion team that makes certain we

not only meet court mandates and state and federal laws, but also respects the various religious groups that serve our inmate population.”

The tug-of-war between prison officials and Native American inmates dates back decades. In 1974, a federal consent decree required prison officials to allow Native American inmates to conduct religious ceremonies and have access to medicine men and ceremonial tobacco, among other things. The 2005 agreement replaced that decree.

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Okla. Native American Caucus elects new leaders

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The Oklahoma Legislature’s Native American Caucus has elected its new leaders for the next two legislative sessions.

The caucus announced Wednesday it has elected Republican Rep. Dan Kirby of Tulsa and Democratic Rep. Anastasia Pittman of Oklahoma City as the co-chairs of the caucus for the 54th Legislature.

Created in 2006, Kirby says the caucus now includes 26 House members who are enrolled members of one of the state’s 39 federally recognized American Indian tribes. The purpose of the caucus is to identify state policies that affect tribes and to foster good communications between tribes and the Legislature.

The bipartisan caucus elects a Republican and Democratic co-chair to lead the group each year. Kirby is a member of the Creek Nation, while Pittman is a member of the Seminole Nation.

Tribal health care workers vent frustrations at state meeting

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The state of Oklahoma is seeking input from Indian Country on how to address its public health care needs.

“We are more than aware of the health care problems in this state,” Oklahoma Department of Health representative Julie Cox-Kain said. “More than 30 percent of this state is obese. More than 25 percent of this state smokes. We have serious health concerns and this gives us an opportunity to review them.”

In order to address those issues, including how to reduce the number of uninsured Oklahomans, the state Department of Health is partnering with tribes to co-host a series of listening sessions across the state, including one Feb. 15 at the Tahlequah Armory with the Cherokee Nation.

Several attendees, including representatives from Cherokee Nation’s health care programs, expressed their frustration and disappointment that the state declined to expand Medicaid coverage.

“The state would have received more federal funding if they had accepted

Medicaid expansion,” said Dr. Charles Grimm, senior director of Cherokee Nation Health Services. “It would have gone a long ways to help us serve more patients.”

An estimated 16 percent of all Native Americans are uninsured and an additional 16 percent rely solely on Indian Health Services for health care. Under the affordable care act, tribal citizens who opt to buy insurance or opt-in to employer-offered plans will no longer be limited to IHS and tribally-run facilities, as is the case for many lower-income Indians. Additionally, tribal citizens will be allowed to enroll in an exchange program on a monthly basis and will not be subject to tax penalties for not carrying health insurance.

“This is all about access to care,” said Dr. James Lewis, a pediatrician at W.W. Hastings Hospital. “There are other problems that have to do with our society, but we need to address better access to care.”

The sessions come after Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin decided to opt out of expanding Medicaid eligibility and would not set up an online marketplace to allow uninsured residents to shop for policies. Instead, a federal exchange

will be made available to Oklahomans and the state is attempting to create its own plan, pending approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to use federal health care funding in different ways. Enrollment is scheduled to open in October with service offerings beginning on Jan. 1, 2014.

“This is just the ground floor for the Oklahoma Plan,” Cox-Kain said. “We’re figuring out what works for Oklahomans.”

Medicaid enrollment is currently open to the disabled and individuals and families who earn up to a certain percentage of the federal poverty level. Under the current income guidelines, a family of four qualifies for SoonerCare, the Oklahoma version of Medicaid, with an annual income of \$42,643, or \$3,554 per month. Medicaid expansion would have provided coverage for an estimated 155,000 additional Oklahomans.

Additional sessions are scheduled for Feb. 22 at the McAlester campus of the Kiamichi Vo-Tech and March 1 at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center in Wyandotte. The state health department will accept written comments through March 15.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Casino developer files suit against Delaware Tribe

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – An Ohio-based casino developer filed a federal lawsuit Feb. 13 against the Delaware Tribe and its business arm.

Claiming breach of contract, River Trails, LLC is seeking more than \$2.6 million from the Delaware Tribe and the Delaware Enterprise Authority. The three signed an

agreement in 2010 to develop a casino in Ohio, near where the tribe lived in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Under the terms of the agreement, River Trails LLC paid the tribe and its business arm \$25,000 per month for pre-development expenses incurred. River Trails would be repaid from the facility’s proceeds after it was opened and would lease its machines to the casino management.

In 2010, the tribe tried to

purchase and place land into trust in central Ohio but was ultimately rebuffed by state and local officials. According to the filing, the agreement included a provision that River Trails would not have to be reimbursed if the tribe’s land into trust application was denied.

The suit also mentions efforts to potentially open a casino in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The tribe operates an office in Caney, Kan., about 20

miles north of its headquarters in Bartlesville, Okla.

To date, the tribe has not filed a land in trust application for a Kansas casino, but the DEA notified River Trails, LLC in November that it would not lease its machines in the proposed facility.

In response to the filing, the tribe released the following statement on its website Feb. 14: “Today, the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Delaware Enterprise Authority received

notice of a pending federal lawsuit from a gaming development company in Ohio. While we are confident we will prevail in this case, we are also aware the National Indian Gaming Commission has yet to determine if any agreements are legal and binding. Given the premature nature of this litigation, we believe the best opportunity to prevail is to have our arguments heard in a court of law and not in the media.”

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COMMENTARY

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Confessions of a Washington Redskin



S.E. RUCKMAN

I inwardly cringe when I see a stereotypical reference to anything Native. It is usually the visual that cuts the deepest, whether it's the nondescript maiden hawking butter or the grinning mascot of a baseball team. Both are like looking at exaggerated misrepresentations of ourselves in a funhouse mirror.

This is no fun for me, this

recent talk of stereotypes. American Indians have battled with them for as long as there were Anglos in this country who must have looked around for someone to intimidate since the moment they landed.

The very definition of stereotype is to hold an idea as a standard or an oversimplified standard, concept or image. We have been re-trained by diversity mindedness to trust what we see. If one does not feel good about a stereotyped image (regardless of race/creed/gender), then he should be free to trust himself and denounce it.

But, I must make a confession. This talk of stereotypes is wringing from me a moral dilemma like the one mentioned in Edgar Allen Poe's, The Telltale Heart. The one where the guilty can no longer take the torment

of trying to keep their own misdeed hidden and must proclaim it in order to be free.

When I was growing up, we lived in the provinces around Washington, D.C. We were a part of desegregation (although we had no idea what the word meant at the time). Nonetheless, we took the bus everyday to an inner city school and rode the same distance back to my house on 116 Greenbriar Ave. The city and state is of no consequence at this point.

Because we still hailed from Oklahoma, we inherited a fondness for football. It's a passion that is bred into us, an innate leaning toward a sport that cannot be simply explained. Football in this context always meant: Leave your differences at the gate, come in and cheer your team on.

I say that to say this. Our local team was the Washington Redskins. It was iconic to us that of all the NFL motifs, one respectable representation of ourselves didn't seem to pass judgment or deride our sense of self. At least that's how it felt. With its war shield, feathers and likeness, the acknowledgement of our origin with this nation's capitol survived. The name ricocheted off of us without a second thought.

Now all the talk is about getting rid of the name Redskins. I assume this means along with all race-related mascots like the Anglo monikers; Titans (Greek), Vikings, Pioneers, Highlanders, Cowboys, etc. I would hate to think that heralding Anglo stereotypes passes muster because of what those names imply, which makes a hurtful implication

of its own.

Let me say I am against insulting representations both in and out of the sports world. Competition is no biased altar where we freely sacrifice to prejudice.

Then, as I watch a new quarterback almost singlehandedly revive the hopes of a stumbling football team, I falter. I become awash in childhood memories because the Washington Redskin mascot was an anchor to our identity when we lived in a sea of people who were not Native. The ache of saying goodbye to that mascot sears me surely.

I know that I am not alone. Doing away with the Washington Redskin motif is a logical argument. I am not unmoved. I have been an American Indian my entire life and this is not a revelation that came from Ancestry.

com., more like Ancestry. Mom.

I wrangle with it now, even as I inwardly mourn my mascot. I marvel that I can take one reference to an Indian stereotype and feel an emotional rush of loyalty, similarsomehowtopatriotism. Then I consider how, at one time the commonly accepted words "injun" and "savage" fell out of favor. I bid them a hasty good bye. So too, all racial epithets.

S.E. Ruckman is a citizen of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Anadarko, Okla. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma's School of Journalism and has written for the Tulsa World and is currently a special contributor to the Native American Times. She is a freelance writer who is based in Oklahoma.

The Oscar stunt seen 'round the world

LISA SNELL

Sacheen Littlefeather called the other day. We talk on a somewhat regular basis but it had been awhile since our last chat and she had been on my mind. February is coming to a close and this week's Academy Awards presentation marks the 40th anniversary of what I will call "Sacheen Littlefeather Day."

I was 2-years-old in 1973, the year Sacheen took the stage at the Academy Awards in lieu of actor Marlon Brando, who had won an Oscar for his role in "The Godfather." Brando had asked her to refuse the Oscar on his behalf and deliver his 15-page speech denouncing the treatment of Native Americans by the television and film industry and expressing his solidarity with American Indian activists – members of the American Indian Movement – who were at that moment engaged in an armed battle with the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Wounded Knee.

She wasn't allowed the

time for such a long speech. She had to improvise on the spot. She ascended the stage, wearing her powwow dress. She gracefully put up a hand, waving away actor Roger Moore who attempted to give her the Oscar. She approached the microphone, introduced herself and offered Brando's regrets for being unable to accept the "very generous award." Her voice trembled slightly. Her head lifted, and chin up, she gazed out at the crowd. Some booed. Some cheered. She was hustled off the stage.

I had never heard of her until I watched the documentary "Reel Injun" soon after its 2009 release. I had lived my entire life oblivious to all of the pre-Oscar Academy Awards hoopla that saturates the entertainment media post-Super Bowl. I had no idea of the Top 10 Most Shocking Oscar Moments or top 25 Worst Oscar Moments or any of the similar countdowns of which Sacheen was the star of one numeral or other.

Seeing this clip from the

documentary inspired me to look for more information about her. I was awed by the amount of courage it must have taken to face not only that crowd, but also the millions all over world watching on television. She had the opportunity and the courage to stand up before a worldwide audience and say (if I may paraphrase here), 'You are treating us badly. You are misrepresenting us and that is wrong. It has got to stop.'

I perused newspaper clippings from the time. I read that she was a "B-movie actress," a "puppet" and "not really an Indian." She was "Mexican" and a "fraud."

I noticed a common thread in all these articles – they were written by men and not a one of them had a direct quote from her. She had not been interviewed in a single one. Every attribution was "so and so said." Well. I wanted to know what she would have said.

I did not know that she and I had a mutual friend. It was by chance that he and I spoke

on the phone soon after I'd seen "Reel Injun." I told him about seeing Sacheen in the movie and really wishing I could talk to her. I wanted to write the story that had not been written in 1973.

"Oh, I know Sash. I can ask if she'll talk to you," he said. He refused to say more.

I had nearly forgotten that conversion by the day the phone rang. The number was blocked but the voice on the line said, "I hear you want to talk to me. This is Sacheen Littlefeather."

I arranged to meet her in person. I considered what a step talking to me was for her. She had been treated badly in the media. And subsequently, been treated badly by other Natives as well. She had more than her fair share of detractors. Even after all those years. Yet, she welcomed me into her home and spoke candidly about her life.

Sasheen's dream of an acting career vanished 40 years ago, dashed against the rocks of that fateful Oscar appearance and the ensuing publicity. But just as AIM carried on, so did Sacheen, albeit more quietly.

Yet, every year, the Oscar countdown begins, leading up to "Sacheen Littlefeather Day." She starts hearing her name on the television and seeing that 1973 Oscar

night photo of herself in the paper. It's mixed in among references to a streaker, the actress Sally Field exclaiming, "You really like me" and actor Jack Palance doing one-arm push-ups. To the mainstream media, she is but a blip on the screen, an image to illustrate a shocking moment in time. She is a face and a name to be trotted out to promote a Hollywood event.

When we spoke last week, she said, "Well, it's begun. They're after me again. People want to use my name to make a nickel. However, did you see Entertainment Weekly? They did a nice piece."

Sacheen has been fighting breast cancer. She recently got the news that she was in remission. I remember speaking to her before her surgery more than a year ago. It was right before Thanksgiving and she was frightened. It was scarier than that Oscar night so many years ago, but like that night, it was an experience that would change her life. She's endured months of radiation therapy and the ensuing burns. She held fast through the pain, weakness and nausea. Having survived, she's channeled the experience into forming a support group for other women going through the treatment. They drive each other to appointments, help

clean and cook for each other and provide the emotional support so desperately needed.

I remain in awe of Sacheen and her courage. When Oscar night comes, I will remember the image of her looking the world directly in the eye through that camera lens. She is a person, not a soundbite. It was her voice that chastised Hollywood for the ill portrayal of Native Americans and reminded the world that another battle was being fought at Wounded Knee. Sure, it was Brando's idea. But it's Sacheen Littlefeather and her speech the media reminds us of every year when they roll out that red carpet for the Hollywood elite.

"Reel Injun" is a Canadian film directed by Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge and Jeremiah Hayes that explores the portrayal of Native Americans in film. It's available on DVD and on Netflix.

Lisa Snell is the Owner/Publisher of the Native Times. She is a 1993 graduate of the University of Tulsa's School of Communication and is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She has owned the Native Times since Sept. 1, 2008.

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Cherokee elders push to free bears at private zoos

MITCH WEISS
Associated Press

CHEROKEE, N.C. (AP) – Peggy Hill was outraged. After watching a video of bears endlessly circling their tiny enclosures at a privately owned zoo on a Cherokee Indian reservation, she knew she had to act.

Hill and other members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians began pressing the tribal council to force that zoo and two others on the reservation to free the bears.

Now it appears Eastern Band leaders are ready to tackle the issue.

At a contentious meeting last week, the tribal council said it's considering a resolution introduced by Hill and supporters to revoke the zoos' licenses and require the owners to remove the bears from captivity.

The council says it will study the issue, and the resolution could come up for a vote at its March meeting.

Hill, 72, said this is the first time that Cherokee elders have publicly spoken out about the issue.

"Most Cherokee people had no idea what was taking place behind the bars of these roadside zoos," Hill said. She said elders are so appalled "at the horrible treatment of these jailed bears" that they decided to take action.

It is the latest development in the long, public campaign to close the zoos where more than two dozen black, Asian and grizzly bears are confined in cages and barren concrete pits.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has filed complaints with federal regulators and Cherokee leaders about the bears' living conditions. Last year, the animal-rights group posted billboards in the area, calling the bear zoos "prisons" and noting an incident in which a 9-year-old girl was bitten while

feeding a baby bear.

The reservation's three roadside zoos – Cherokee Bear Zoo, Chief Saunooke Bear Park and Santa's Land – are inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which enforces the federal Animal Welfare Act. The Eastern Band's wildlife office also inspects the zoos.

The USDA last month suspended the Chief Saunooke Bear Park's exhibitor's license and fined the owner \$20,000 over inhumane conditions. Inspectors found that the zoo was failing to provide the bears with appropriate food, proper veterinary care and a safe enclosure.

The suspension is in place until inspectors determine the facility complies with animal welfare standards.

Former game show host and longtime animal-rights activist Bob Barker recently predicted that tourists will avoid Cherokee Indian attractions in North Carolina until the tribe stops the zoos from displaying bears in cramped enclosures.

The tribe's principal chief, Michell Hicks, said he found the comments from Barker and PETA offensive.

Delcianna Winders, PETA's director of captive animal law, said her group will continue fighting to free the bears from captivity and was thrilled that the elders have gotten involved in the issue.

"This has given a black eye to the community," she said of the issue.

The Eastern Band has allowed caged animals as a tourism draw since the 1950s.

For years, the community in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains has depended on its natural landscape and wildlife – with hiking trails, fishing streams and whitewater rapids – to attract tourists. But now, many people come to western North Carolina for the casino, which opened on the reservation in 1997.

Hill said she didn't know about the

zoos until January, when she watched an online video from what PETA called an undercover investigation of Chief Saunooke Bear Park.

The video showed bears rocking back and forth and circling in the tiny pits. One man identified by PETA as a park employee discusses killing a bear that bit someone by shooting it 20 times in the head. He claims he later ate the animal.

"I was so angry when I saw that video," Hill said.

At the tribal council meeting Feb. 14, Hill passionately appealed to members to pass the resolution. So did other Cherokee elders.

Hicks didn't return telephone calls for comment. But he released a statement, saying he wanted to give private zoo owners the opportunity to create a wildlife preserve on the reservation.

"Exhibiting and celebrating our wildlife has long been part of Cherokee's economy, and I believe it's important to continue to showcase our bears and other wildlife. However, we need to create a more animal friendly environment for these animals," his statement read.

Council member Perry Shell said action must be taken.

"We all know it's wrong," he said. "But we don't need PETA coming in here to tell us it's wrong."

Still, it was the PETA video that "forced us to do something," said Amy Walker, a Cherokee who supports closing the zoos.

She said Cherokees are taught to respect all life. "What are we doing here?" she asked.

Sylvester Crowe, 74, said some Cherokees were against the roadside bear exhibits when they began appearing on the reservation in the 1950s.

"Nobody listened to them and they gave up, and the younger generation came along and accepted it," he said. "We have a chance to right that wrong."

Tribe on way toward establishing its own federal Medicaid program

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) – Navajo Nation officials say they are on their way toward managing their own federally funded Medicaid program.

The Farmington Daily Times reports that the nation began looking into creating its own Medicaid program about five years ago because of issues some tribal members had with other health care programs available in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Navajo Nation Department of Health officials are optimistic that the tribe can sustain its own Medicaid program, even though a feasibility study wasn't as optimistic.

"Basically, what they indicated was if the Navajo Nation wanted to do it, it could do it," said Larry Curley, executive director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health. "The Navajo Nation is moving ahead with this."

While more than 100,000 citizens of the tribe are currently eligible for

Medicaid, many of them do not take advantage of the services because of the complications that frequently accompany them, Curley said. Members often have to travel long distances or go to certain clinics to receive the services.

Additionally, all three states are pursuing their own versions of Medicaid within their state boundaries, which creates issues for Navajo who live in one state but sometimes are closer to services in another.

The tribe asked that a feasibility study be done to see how viable its own Medicaid system would be. The study is complete but hasn't yet been released. It's under review by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The study will go to Congress for review March 23.

The study assumed that the tribe's Medicaid system would serve Navajos within the tribe's geographic boundaries and would alleviate some confusion.

"It would just be simpler for us. We wouldn't have to face the different rules that different states have," said Erny Zah, spokesman for the Navajo Nation president.

It will cost an estimated \$100 million to \$120 million to put the technology, people and other plans in place to make the program work, Curley said, though he noted that the study said it was a very rough number.

"I have a fantastic belief in Indian peoples that they can do what they believe they can do," Curley said, noting that this system will be able to incorporate traditional medicine and will be a more culturally sensitive system. "It will be successful."

Other leaders have not been quite as confident.

New Mexico politicians in August last year expressed doubts about both the state's and the tribe's plans for Medicaid during a meeting in Shiprock.

CREEK

Continued from Page 1

at the site.

The charge of a making a terrorist threat is a felony. The earliest Gray can expect an arraignment hearing is Tuesday, Feb. 19.

"The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is using post 9/11 hysteria to deprive my client of his First Amendment Right to free speech and religious expression," Ludwick said.

The group was also turned away from the property the day before by tribal police officers and a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"It is mind-boggling that they are

alleging these charges against someone who was praying for his excavated ancestors at a ceremonial ground," Ludwick said. "They are attempting to use their influence over the local government to punish Wayland, but they are only going to bring greater awareness to the sacred lands and religious freedom issues there."

The casino construction project has come under fire from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, along with traditionalists in Alabama, for its potential desecration of a pre-removal sacred site and burial ground. A federal lawsuit to stop the \$246 million expansion is pending in the Middle District of Alabama.

The plaintiffs claim that 57 sets of human remains of their ancestors were excavated

from Hickory Ground in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Ludwick said any charges filed against the four men would be challenged under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

A representative for the PBCI said they could not suspend the construction or allow the group onto the site due to safety issues and the ongoing litigation.

An online campaign is actively trying to raise money for Gray's bond. For more information see www.facebook.com/SaveHickoryGround or the Free Wayland Gray campaign on indiegogo at http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/339539/x/1002311?show_todos=true

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EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY
The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee

Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

FEBRUARY 22-23
Indian Art Market at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Avenue, Cache, Okla. For more information contact: Eleanor McDaniel at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864 Email: mcdaniel.eleanor@yahoo.com. com Native American arts and crafts vendors welcome. Space is limited. Bring your own tables.

FEBRUARY 23
Wild Onion Dinner at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S Youngs Blvd, OKC. Menu: wild onions & scrambled eggs, pinto beans, tanchi labona, salt pork or fried chicken, banana, fry bread, Dessert – grape dumplings; Drinks – iced tea, lemonade & coffee; Adults \$8, Children 5 & under \$3. Contacts: Della Eisel 550-2823, Shelly Meikle 740-9575.

FEBRUARY 24
5th Annual Love of Ledger Art – History in Pictures, 2 -5 p.m. at

Tribes Gallery, 131 24th Ave, NW, Norman. 405.329.4442. www.tribes131.com

FEBRUARY 28
Showing of “Barking Water” by Sterlin Harjo, University of Tulsa, Lorton Performance Center, Meinig Recital Hall, 550 S. Gary Place, Tulsa, OK. 7:00 pm. Free and Open to the Public. Info call Teresa Runnels, 918-549-7472.

MARCH 2
Peoria Stomp Dance and Annual Peoria Council Meeting, Ottawa-Peoria Cultural Center, 114 S. Eight Tribes Trail (from turnpike, north on Hwy 69a to 2nd right turn onto Eight Tribes Trail), Miami, OK. Information: 918-540-2535.

Salt Creek UMC Annual Wild Onion Dinner -All You Can Eat! 11am-3pm. Adults \$10, Children \$5. Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, 224 E. Poplar. Arts & Crafts vendors welcome. Call Doug Scott for intro 405-379-3125.

Seminole Hitchitee United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner. All you can eat, Adults - \$10, Children - \$7. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, Seminole Community Center (by the golf course), Seminole, OK For more information contact: Pastor Rick Deer (405) 667-3152

Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

American Indian Festival of Words, all day on the Plaza in front of

the Tulsa City-County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa OK. For more information and an agenda: Teresa Runnels, 918-549-7472.

MARCH 16
Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

Native High School All-Star Game, Shawnee, Okla. Info email michael.logan@potawatomi.org

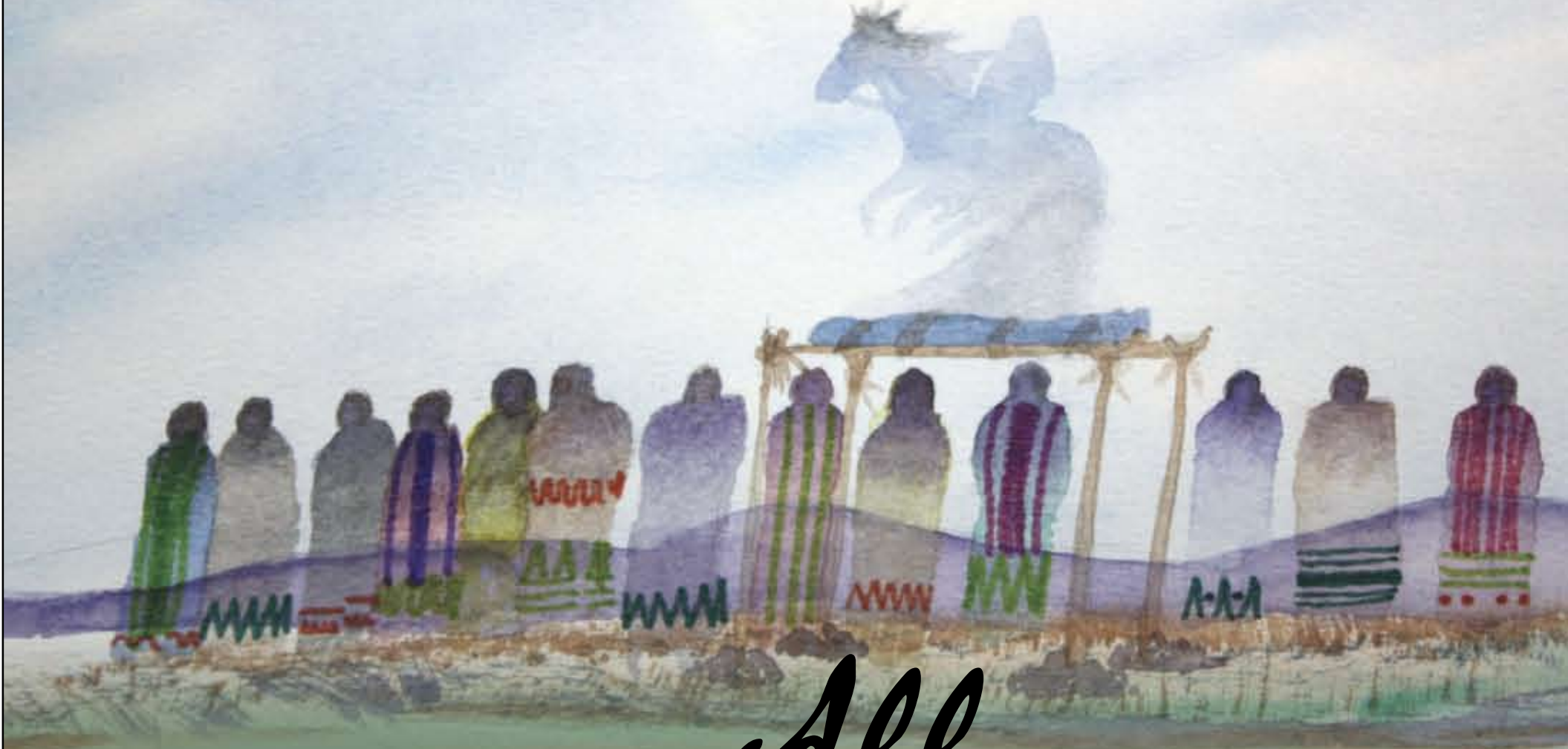
Wild Onion Dinner at Haikey Chapel UMC, 8805 E 101st St, Tulsa. 11 am till 3 pm. Adults \$7.50 and child's dinners for \$ 3.50. Wild Onions, brown beans, frybread, corn, grape dumplings, sofke, choice of ham or salt meat, a dessert and drink.

MARCH 22
2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 23
Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

APRIL 6
American Indian Leadership Youth Council Of Broken Bow Public Schools Spring Pow Wow.

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MARCH 1, 2013



Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif.



Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.

Republicans offer deal on American Indian courts

JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Several House Republicans on Wednesday proposed legislation on Native American courts that could lay the groundwork for a compromise on the stalled Violence Against Women Act.

The legislation gives tribal courts the authority to prosecute non-Indians accused of abusing partners on tribal lands.

The bill, introduced by Reps. Darrell Issa of California, Tom Cole of Oklahoma, and six other Republicans, would also allow defendants to request that their case be moved to a federal court if they felt their constitutional rights were being violated.

The House and Senate have been trying for the past

year to renew and expand the 1994 act, credited with reducing domestic violence in the country, but tribal authority over domestic violence cases has been a major point of contention.

The Senate last week passed a Violence Against Women Act bill that gives Indian courts more authority to try non-Indians, overcoming objections that non-Indians should not be subject to tribal law by pointing to figures showing Indian women 2 1/2 times more susceptible to violence than others in the country. But this provision has met continued resistance in the House.

Half the domestic violence cases occurring on Indian lands go unprosecuted, often because federal

See **DEAL** Continued on Page 3



Jacqueline Pata, NCAI Executive Director



Jefferson Keel, NCAI President

NCAI issues opinion opposing new House VAWA legislation

■ **Leader says new language is not even close to the Senate bill passed last week**

THOM WALLACE
NCAI Media Release

WASHINGTON – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) opposes the House proposed VAWA legislation filed [Feb. 22]. As a member of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women (NTF) we stand with our partners and do not accept the language that's been offered.

This legislation lacks necessary protections for

victims of violence and rolls back current law and disregards significant bipartisan efforts in the Senate on the tribal provisions.

“The inclusion of the tribal provisions in a House VAWA is long overdue and let's be clear, the new House language is not even close to the Senate bill which passed with bipartisan support last week 78-22. And actually, in some areas the House language rolls back existing laws that protect Native women,” said Jacqueline Pata, Executive Director of NCAI. “NCAI supports efforts to move the House legislation closer to the

See **NCAI** Continued on Page 3

Ultimatum on Wounded Knee

■ **Land owner says site goes on the auction block May 1**

BRANDON ECOFFEY
Native Sun News

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The owner of the two 40 acre parcels of land where the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre occurred, and where members

of the American Indian Movement took on the federal government for 71 days in 1973, has set a final date for the tribe to purchase the land.

During an exclusive interview with Native Sun News, James Czywcznski, the owner of the land and the man who shook Indian Country two weeks ago with his announcement that he was putting the site up for sale at a

price of \$3.9 million, says that this is the only way that he will be able to get the land sold.

“I really have no choice but to place a timeline on when I want to sell the land,” said Czywcznski. “I feel like I am giving the tribe ample opportunity to buy it, but I may have to put it up for auction on the open market,” he added.

Czywcznski informed Native Sun News that he will

give the Oglala Sioux Tribe or other Native American groups until May 1, 2013, to purchase the land. After May 1, he will begin to entertain offers from prospective buyers from all over the world.

“There have been people and organizations from across America who have attempted to contact me

See **ULTIMATUM** Continued on Page 4



NATIVE TIMES FILE | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Wounded Knee, South Dakota on March 27, 1973 during negotiations between members of the American Indian Movement and Federal Agents.

DOI hosting more Osage County meetings

■ **Among the proposed changes up for public discussion are several adjustments to the royalty rates paid by producers to the BIA.**

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – Osage County residents, ranchers and petroleum professionals will have another chance to share their concerns with the Department of the Interior at the February Osage Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (ONRC) meetings this week.

Open to the general public, the meetings are scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Wah Zha Zhi

Cultural Center at 1449 W. Main St

Established as part of a \$380 million settlement of a federal lawsuit alleging mismanagement of the Osage Nation's 1.4 million acre mineral estate, the ONRC is part of a two-year process to review and update the policies concerning oil and natural gas drilled within the Osage Nation's boundaries in northern Oklahoma. Its members include representatives from the Osage Minerals Council, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management and the DOI.

Managed by the BIA, the tribe's \$4 billion mineral estate is the largest single-owner mineral estate in the country. In addition to the duties assigned to any other BIA agency office, the Osage Agency is also responsible for processing and issuing drilling permits to oil and natural gas producers attempting to do business in

Osage County. In 2009 alone, more than 4 million barrels of oil were produced in the county, the third among of Oklahoma's 77 counties.

Among the proposed changes up for public discussion are several adjustments to the royalty rates paid by producers to the BIA.

Under the current federal regulations, the royalty rates are based off of the actual selling prices for at least one major petroleum purchaser in Osage County. Under the proposed changes, the rate would instead be determined by either the monthly average New York Mercantile Exchange, or NYMEX, daily price of oil in Cushing, Okla., or the selling price, whichever is higher after adjusted for gravity. As of Friday, the NYMEX price

See **OSAGE** Continued on Page 2

Creek protestor freed on reduced bond

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WETUMPKA, Ala. – As of last Tuesday, Wayland Gray is a free man.

Gray, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, was arrested Friday afternoon for trespassing and allegedly making a terrorist threat against the Wind Creek Casino and its management. Gray and a group from both the Muscogee (Creek) and Poarch Band of Creek Indians had attempted to pray for their ancestors once buried at the casino construction site, which overlaps with Hickory Ground, a pre-removal burial ground, capitol and sacred site.

Detained over President's Day weekend in the Elmore County, Ala., jail, Gray was released Feb. 19 after Muscogee (Creek)

Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and other tribal officials traveled to Alabama to negotiate a lower bond. Originally held for a \$30,000 cash-only bond, Gray was released for \$15,000 late that Tuesday afternoon and flew back to Oklahoma with Tiger.

“I came because the families of Wayland Gray and our tribal members felt that this is something the nation needed to do,” Tiger said at a press conference that day in Montgomery, Ala. “I want to be able to take Mr. Gray home this evening to his parents and loved ones. It is our hope that one day our relatives in this state...can work together with us.”

Brendan Ludwick, attorney for the Hickory Ground Tribal Town, said Gray

See **CREEK** Continued on Page 4



NATIVE TIMES FILE PHOTO

Wayland Gray, seen here Feb. 9 during an Idle No More-styled rally in Tulsa, Okla., was released Feb. 19 from the Elmore County, Ala., jail.

OSAGE

Continued from Page 1

for a barrel of crude oil in Cushing, Okla., was \$93.13.

The royalty rate would also potentially rise from 16.66 percent to 20 percent of the producers’ gross sales, not only of natural gas and oil, but also helium, which is currently in short supply worldwide. Producers would be expected to pay royalties on all oil and natural gas wasted or otherwise avoidably lost.

Also up for discussion is a proposal that would allow the Osage Agency superintendent to terminate leases for sites that do not produce enough oil and natural gas to generate a payment within a 60-day period unless a written request for additional time is received at least 15 days before the deadline, along with an explanation as to why the lease should not be terminated. The idea was first suggested at the January meeting but was not well-received by oil and gas producers, in part because of the Osage Agency’s bookkeeping track record.

The office, which currently does not have any form of electronic reporting available for producers, has taken up to 70 days to issue a drilling permit, creating an administrative backlog and delays for oil and natural gas exploration companies attempting to do business in Osage County.

“If the BIA can’t keep up with the current workload, are we going to be adding to their workload with this?” Halcon Resources’ Jamie Sicking asked. “I’m concerned we’re setting them up for failure.

“Sixty days is a fantasy. We can’t even get a drilling permit in 70.”

C&A special council meeting called

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – A special Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal council has been called for March 2 to possibly rescind a request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to run the divided tribes’ 2013 election.

Earlier this month, a petition with 189 valid, verified signatures was filed with Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration to rescind a resolution passed at the regular 2012 Tribal Council meeting to suspend the Cheyenne and Arapaho

Election Commission and turn over the responsibilities of conducting the tribes’ 2013 election to the BIA. The candidates’ filing period opens May 1 and closes June 1. The primary election is scheduled for Oct. 8 and the general election is scheduled for Nov. 5.

“We are working on repealing that resolution because the BIA has not shown itself to be responsive enough to handle conducting an election,” Lisa Liebl said. “Instead, we are working on securing a third-party contractor to come in and conduct the election.”

The meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Hammon Community Hall in

Hammon, Okla., and is open to all Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizens who are age 18 or older. Lunch will be served at noon.

The meeting comes less than a month after the legislature affiliated with Leslie Wandrie-Harjo’s administration formally filed a similar request with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to oversee the tribes’ election. A letter was delivered to the superintendent of the BIA’s Concho agency in El Reno, Okla., and mailed to Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn on Jan. 31.

Multiple appeals on the tribes’ split government and its implications are

pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals, but no timeline has been given on a ruling.

The council will also vote on a resolution to request the Office of the Inspector General to investigate and audit the BIA’s Concho agency and its handling of the tribes’ trust assets, as well as request that the BIA replace its superintendent, Betty Tippeconnie. The council passed a similar resolution concerning Tippeconnie in 2011 after she wrote that the BIA would recognize the judges affiliated with the Wandrie-Harjo administration.

5 American Indians chosen for ‘champions’ White House program

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Five Native American youths are being honored in a spinoff of a White House program called “Champions For Change.”

The Aspen Institute’s Center for Native American Youth said in a statement Thursday the program is meant to promote hope and leadership opportunities.

The participants are 14-year-old Cierra Fields of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma; 19-year-old Vance Home Gun of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana; 22-year-old Joaquin Gellegos of the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Pueblo of Santa Ana in Colorado; 18-year-old Sarah Schilling of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Michigan; and 15-year-old Dahkota Brown of the Wilton Miwok



Cierra Fields, Cherokee Nation

of California.

They head to Washington for a May 4 reception for the National Congress of American Indians’ conference. They also will participate in a discussion in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Hearing Room.

Priceless Comanche items come home for CNMCC special exhibit

CANDY MORGAN

LAWTON, Okla. – Priceless Comanche items from the 19th and 20th centuries are on exhibit at the Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center (CNMCC) in Lawton as part of the third and final installment of the museum’s current exhibition All Things Comanche – A Numunuu Trilogy.

It’s all part of a a year-long exhibit celebrating the cultural uniqueness of the great Comanche Nation. Many seldom seen Comanche items, including a historic buffalo robe once belonging to captive Cynthia Ann Parker, have been on display since the exhibit opened in the fall of 2012. Visitors this time around can expect to see very rare 19th century Comanche items on loan from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C. “We saved the shock and awe for last,” said Comanche National Museum Executive Director Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi. Some of the items include a lynx skin children’s parka and a fully beaded cradleboard. “The final part of our trilogy is a homecoming,” Wahahrockah-Tasi said. “NMAI graciously opened their doors to our staff and allowed us to hand-pick these items from their collections

in Suitland, Maryland. The Smithsonian has very high standards and strenuous loan requirements so it has taken us a little over a year to bring these items back to Comanche country. The fact that the Comanche National Museum cleared all of the Smithsonian’s hurdles says a lot about how far we’ve come in the past five years,” Wahahrockah-Tasi said.

Part three of the trilogy also includes several rarely-seen Comanche Code Talker items from the personal collection of the last surviving Code Talker, Charles Chibitty. The items are on loan to the museum from Joe Martinez of Tyler, Texas. “Mr. Martinez had the privilege of spending a lot of time with Charles Chibitty before he passed away in 2007. Mr. Chibitty gave Joe several of his historic World War II mementos and asked him to use them to continue telling the Code Talker story. Comanche Code Talker items are extremely rare so we are thrilled to include these keepsakes in the final part of our exhibit,” Wahahrockah-Tasi said.

The exhibit will be on display through August 31, 2013. CNMCC is located at 701 NW Ferris Avenue, behind McMahon Auditorium. Admission is always free. Call 580-353-0404 for more information or visit www.comanchemuseum.com.

NOTICE FOR OSAGE COUNTY

(WEATHER PERMITTING)

THE OSAGE COUNTY ASSESSOR

WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

TULSA – GILCREASE HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOC. – 1919 W SEMINOLE
MARCH 5, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

McCORD - SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER - 115 MARY RD.
MARCH 6, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

SAND SPRINGS - HEALTH CENTER - 306 E. BROADWAY
MARCH 7, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

SKIATOOK - COMMUNITY CENTER - 220 S. BROADWAY
MARCH 8, 10:00 A.M – 3:00 P.M.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF

TAKING NEW APPLICATIONS FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, DOUBLE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, SENIOR FREEZE, VETERANS EXEMPTION, REPORTING CHANGES MADE TO YOUR PROPERTY AND/OR BUILDINGS, TURNING IN MANUFACTURED HOMES, RENDERING BUSINESS PERSONALS, REPORTING FARM EQUIPMENT, TRACTORS, BOAT DOCKS, ETC., AND APPLYING FOR AGRICULTURE FUEL EXEMPTION.

DEADLINE FOR FILING IS MARCH 15, 2013

ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION WILL BE GRANTED FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS WITH A GROSS INCOME (COLLECTIVE INCOME OF ANY AND ALL SOURCES OF ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THE HOMESTEAD) NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00 FOR THE PRECEEDING CALENDAR YEAR. THERE ARE NO AGE REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, FOR A PERMANENT EXEMPTION, YOU MUST FILE AT AGE 65, AND YOU MUST BE 65 AS OF MARCH 15TH. IF 66 YEARS OR OLDER AND QUALIFIED IN 2012, NO ANNUAL APPLICATION IS REQUIRED. FOR MORE DETAILS CALL 918-287-3448.

VETERANS EXEMPTION: 100% DISABLED OR SURVIVING SPOUSE MAY NOW APPLY FOR A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION THAT WILL ELIMINATE THEIR TAX BURDEN ON HOMESTEAD PROPERTY. APPLICANT MUST PROVIDE A CURRENT U.S.D.V.A. BENEFITS AWARD LETTER WITH QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS EXEMPTION THAT CERTIFIES THE 100% SERVICE RELATED DISABILITY.

PROPERTY VALUATION FREEZE (AKA: SENIOR FREEZE): THE OWNER MUST BE 65 YEARS OLD OR OLDER AS OF JANUARY 1ST, 2013 AND GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVEL CANNOT EXCEED \$60,400.00 FOR THE 2012 YEAR. TO QUALIFY THE TAXPAYER MUST PROVIDE COPIES OF 2012 PAPERS TO VERIFY TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF ALL OCCUPANTS LIVING IN THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME INCLUDES ALL TAXABLE AND NON-TAXABLE INCOME SOURCES. THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA WILL VERIFY ALL APPLICANTS.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TAXPAYER TO NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IF INCOME EXCEEDS THE QUALIFIED AMOUNTS.

HOUSE BILL #1724: IF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES ARE DELINQUENT, YOUR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION WILL BE CANCELLED.

GAIL HEDGCOTH | OSAGE COUNTY ASSESSOR
600 GRANDVIEW, RM 101
OSAGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PAWHUSKA, OK. 74056
HOURS: 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. 918-287-3448

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CA Tribes campaign to save Native American languages

■ **Before the arrival of Europeans, 400 to 600 indigenous languages were spoken.**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) – The Luiseño language is back from the brink of extinction, thanks to the efforts of tribal leaders on the Pechanga Indian reservation in Southern California.

The tribe recently began funding a graduate-level Cal State San Bernardino Luiseño class, one of the few for-credit university indigenous-language courses in the country, the Riverside Press Enterprise reported. And at a Pechanga-run school on the reservation, children speak Luiseño every day.

Luiseño is just one of several Native American languages

enjoying a comeback, according to the newspaper. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has hired three professional linguists to help preserve and expand use of the Serrano language. A school run by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians includes classes in Serrano and Cahuilla. In Northern California, the Yurok language is now taught in public-school classrooms.

Thornton Media Inc., which began in Banning, has developed indigenous-language video games, storybooks and electronic flashcards for tribes nationwide.

Advocates for Native American languages cheer the revivals.

“After 20 years of doing this, I’m finally saying, ‘Oh my God, this is working,’” said Marina Drummer, administrator

for Vallejo-based Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, which trains remaining speakers of languages to be instructors and sponsors workshops and conferences.

Before the arrival of Europeans to what is now the United States, 400 to 600 indigenous languages were spoken, Inée Slaughter, executive director of the Santa Fe, N.M.-based Indigenous Language Institute, told the Press Enterprise.

Today all but 175 are extinct, and 155 are considered endangered, because they have very few fluent or native speakers, she said.

“If transmission to younger people isn’t happening, we’re literally a generation away from that language not functioning,” she said.

Iowa House approves tribal lands tax exemption bill

BOISE, Idaho (AP) – The House has approved a bill that would forbid counties from taxing tribal government land on the state’s reservations.

Thursday’s 64-3 vote came without debate. The bill now heads to the Senate.

Idaho Falls Republican Janet Trujillo said all government land held within the reservation would be

exempt from taxes, but personal property would still be subject to taxation. Tribe members living on land outside the reservation would also be required to pay taxes.

The proposal would save \$303,000 in assessments annually for all five tribes with reservations in Idaho.

Tribe seeking designs for Sioux coin

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) – The Oglala Sioux Tribe is seeking design ideas from the public for a new Sioux Nation dollar coin.

The tribe’s Office of Economic Development is working with the Native American Mint on the contest.

The winning design will be displayed on a 39 millimeter coin. Designs should

represent Sioux history, culture, values and hopes for the future.

The Sioux Dollar coin will not be circulated and will instead be sold to collectors.

The winner will receive \$100 and 50 coins.

Deadline to submit a design is March 15. Designs should be sent to the Oglala Sioux Tribe Office of Economic Development.

SD leads nation in Native American poverty rate

KRISTI EATON

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – South Dakota leads the nation in the percentage of Native Americans living below the poverty line, and more than half of the Native Americans in the state’s second largest city live in poverty, according to new U.S. Census data released Wednesday.

More than 48 percent of the state’s 65,000 Native Americans live below the poverty threshold, according to the American Community Survey on poverty covering 2007 to 2011. In Rapid City, the poverty rate for Native Americans was 50.9 percent. This leads the nation among the 20 cities most populated by American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“The number is unacceptable,” said Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker. “And I think the situation is not limited to our Native population, although it affects the Native population more dramatically than other segments of the population.”

Under current federal guidelines, an individual earning less than \$11,170 a year or a family of four with an annual income of less than \$23,050 is considered to be living in poverty.

Kooiker said the Black Hills

of South Dakota is an area that has struggled with high underemployment numbers for years. The mayor said the solution is a two-pronged one: increasing opportunities in both the government and private sector, and having potential employees work to improve their skill sets once those opportunities are in place.

For example, Kooiker said, the United Tribes Technical College out of North Dakota will soon be opening a campus in Rapid City to provide education and training opportunities for Native Americans.

Aside from South Dakota, eight other states had poverty rates of about 30 percent or more for American Indians and Alaska Natives. They are Arizona, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota and Utah.

Mike McCurry, the state demographer for South Dakota, said he is not surprised by the numbers because the American Indians in South Dakota have never recovered from the financial collapse and the Dust Bowl in the early 1900s.

“Most of our concentrations of poverty are in the reservations, but they’re also concentrated – Rapid City gets a lot of people leaving

the reservation looking for jobs,” he said. “The difference between being in poverty and not being in poverty to a lot of us is one paycheck.”

He said Denver is another city that many Native Americans from South Dakota’s nine Indian reservations move to in hopes of finding employment. Denver’s poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives is 29.1 percent, according to the census data.

“So when we’re looking at nearly 30 percent of poverty in Denver, that’s probably also reflecting some of the people that aren’t in Rapid (City),” he said.

Wade Two Charge, 30, relocated to Denver and also tried moves to Phoenix, Florida and California with hopes of finding steady unemployment. He’s since returned to his home and family on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in south-central South Dakota.

Two Charge, who has a degree in business administration from the tribal college, said he has been unemployed since getting back to the reservation, except for some short construction stints.

“There are only so many projects going on on the reservation at a time – so many buildings going down

and going up,” he said.

His most recent job, which involved construction of a new tribal jail and lasted about a year, ended last year. Another job he has coming up will only last about two months.

Two Charge, who lives in a trailer on a lot his family owns, doesn’t have a car and relies on social gatherings and \$200 in food stamps for food each month.

“There are avenues to help, but it’s definitely a lot more difficult than other places,” he said of his current surroundings. “In a city, you can just jump in a bus and go across town. The whole society is different and it’s not the ghetto. Here, there are no buses. We rely a lot upon family members to help us out. I think that’s where we’re blessed to have an emphasis on respect for our elders.”

He still thinks about leaving the reservation, but said he doesn’t want to move away from his home and his people.

Online:

American Community

Survey: [http://www.](http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acsbr11-17.pdf)

census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acsbr11-17.pdf

VAWA

Continued from Page 1

authorities lack the resources to pursue cases on isolated reservations.

“The current law enforcement system for Native American women is broken,” Issa said. “Too many victims of domestic violence cannot get access to law enforcement during times of emergency and more will continue to suffer unless Congress acts.”

The Violence Against Women Act, which provides federal grants for legal assistance, transitional housing, law enforcement training and domestic violence hotlines, expired in 2011. Both the House and Senate passed renewal bills last year, but were unable to resolve differences over the Indian courts, and to a lesser extent, to Senate language saying that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people should have equal access to the act’s programs.

Issa and Cole put forth their compromise last year, but the session ended before it could be considered. Cole is one of only three House members of Native American heritage.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., has said he will bring up a House Violence Against Women Act bill soon, and one possibility is that the Issa-Cole provision on Indian courts would be incorporated in the House bill.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

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NCAI

Continued from Page 1

inclusive, bipartisan Senate-passed bill.”

NCAI’s initial review of the proposed language exposes significant areas where the proposed House VAWA tribal provisions represent a major step backward.

For example, under the proposed Section 204 (e), a tribal court could only issue a protection order against a non-Indian if they successfully navigated the Attorney General certification process under the proposed 204 (b), and then only if the non-Indian defendant met the requirements for the ‘special domestic violence jurisdiction.’ In other words, the defendant would need to have established significant ties to the reservation, such as by living or working on the reservation.

Prior to this proposal, the 2000 VAWA Reauthorization

made it clear that every tribe had full civil jurisdiction to issue and enforce civil protection orders against all persons, Indian and non-Indian. This roll back of current law is extremely troubling since, as far as a tribe’s authority prior to passage of this VAWA bill, it is the only protection a tribal government can provide to its women victims of domestic violence against all perpetrators of domestic violence, stalking or harassment.

Also, in reference to other significant changes from the strong bipartisan Senate-passed S. 47, the newly proposed House legislation provides non-Indian defendants with numerous options to evade justice in tribal courts, such as a limitation on tribal court sentencing authority (any crime prosecuted under this proposed legislation would be limited to a year sentencing), a process for interlocutory appeal and direct review of the final verdict, as well as an

added provision subjecting “every person” involved in carrying out this special jurisdiction to a civil action for deprivation of rights (there is an immunity included for tribal officials which is akin to the public officials immunity under 42 U.S.C. 1983). This last example was included, despite the fact that tribal officials are already subject to Federal Tort Claims Act jurisdiction.

These added provisions will do much to interfere with tribal justice systems, and will do little for Native victims of violence. In short, the House proposed VAWA legislation filed today seems to go the distance in considering the rights and privileges of domestic abusers that would be subject to a tribal court’s ‘special domestic violence jurisdiction,’ but does not provide Native victims of violence the necessary protections they need for swift and fair justice in Indian country.

ATTENTION WOMEN AND HISPANIC FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The United States Government is establishing a Claims Process to make available up to \$1.33 billion or more to farmers who alleged discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on being female, or based on being Hispanic, in making or servicing farm loans during certain periods between 1981 and 2000. If you qualify and submit a timely claim, you could receive an award of up to \$50,000 or up to \$250,000 in cash, depending on the evidence that you submit. USDA will also provide a total of up to \$160 million in debt relief to successful Claimants who currently owe USDA money for eligible farm debt.

Claims Filing Deadline: March 25, 2013

For a claims package or for help filing a claim contact

Alicia Seyler, Farm Advocate

918.699.9850 or 202.276.2634

farmadvocate@gmail.com

Omaha Tribe wins round in village booze tax fight

NELSON LAMPE
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) – The Omaha Tribe has won a round in its struggle with the village of Pender and alcohol retailers regarding the reservation boundaries and the tribe’s authority to tax alcohol sales. The Omaha Tribal Court ruled earlier this month that the village and the retailers’ locations were within Omaha Reservation boundaries, which would make the retailers subject to the tax. Attorney Gene Summerlin, who represents Pender and the retailers, said Feb. 19

that the case will return to federal court, which has final jurisdiction. Omaha Tribal Council Chairman Rodney Morris said through the tribe’s lawyers that the tribe was pleased by the court’s decision. Morris also said the tribe “welcomes the continued right to exercise regulatory authority throughout the Omaha Reservation and will work with federal, state and local authorities to advance the public interest of the community.” The tribe’s liquor regulations require licenses for businesses that sell alcohol and a 10

percent tax on alcohol purchases. A group of Pender retailers sued in federal court in 2007, arguing they weren’t subject to the tribe’s regulations because the land is not part of the Omaha Reservation in northeast Nebraska. In an 1854 treaty, the United States defined the reservation as stretching from the west bank of the Missouri River across the portion of northeast Nebraska that later became part of Thurston, Cuming, Burt and Wayne counties and Iowa’s Monona County. In the 1860s, part of the Omaha Tribe’s northern land

was ceded to the Winnebago Tribe, and over time, some of the remaining Omaha land came to be owned by non-Native Americans, resulting in a “checkerboard” pattern of land ownership that has caused confusion about tribal lines. The part that was opened for sale to white settlers included what became the village of Pender. U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf referred the lawsuit to the Omaha Tribal Court and issued a temporary restraining order barring the tribe from collecting the tax. The primary question presented to the Tribal Court,

said one of the tribe’s lawyers, Patricia Zieg, was whether Pender was part of the reservation. The court found it was. The retailers’ attorney, Summerlin, said he expected the restraining order will remain in place while the U.S. District Court considers the case. Both sides likely will file motions for summary judgment, Summerlin said, because there wasn’t much disagreement on the case facts, which would let the court rule on the legal issues without a trial. He also said he wasn’t sure

whether the federal judge would treat the Tribal Court ruling as merely advisory or give it more weight. Zieg said her firm’s reading of recent decisions is that the district court will give the Tribal Court’s decision “some deference, but we don’t know to what degree.” The Omaha Tribal Court is a trial court, Zieg said, so it’s possible the U.S. District Court might require the case to be heard by a Native American appellate court. For the Omaha Tribal Court, Zieg said, that would be the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals in Aberdeen, S.D.

State AG files suit to shut down PBCI casinos

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Attorney General Luther Strange filed a lawsuit Feb. 19 aimed at shutting down three casinos owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Citing state laws that prohibit slot machine gaming, Strange filed the suit in the Elmore County Circuit Court against the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ gaming authority and the individual members of the gaming authority and tribal council in their official capacity. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is not specifically named as a defendant. “I have lobbied Congress to stop the expansion of Indian gambling to new

areas, and I have filed a brief in the Alabama Supreme Court to oppose the Poarch Band’s efforts to use its land for gambling,” Strange said. “As I have said many times, my office will use every tool at its disposal to stop illegal gambling in Alabama, wherever it is located. This lawsuit against the Poarch Band is one of those tools.” The casinos are operated on trust property, which means state officials can not serve warrants or seize the machines. However, Strange contends in his lawsuit that the Atmore, Ala., tribe still has an obligation to comply with state gaming laws. Strange has also filed a brief with the Alabama Supreme Court, asking it to apply the terms of the 2009 Carcieri v. Salazar Supreme Court decision to

the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ gaming facility. Under the terms of that decision, the Secretary of the Interior’s ability to place land into trust for tribal gaming is restricted to tribes who had federal recognition when the Indian Reorganization Act was passed in 1934. Alabama’s only federally recognized tribe, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians did not receive that status until 1984. In a statement released Tuesday, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians denied Strange’s jurisdictional claims over its three casinos. “While we respect Mr. Strange’s attempts to fulfill his duties as state Attorney General, he is not a federal official and therefore, has no jurisdiction or enforcement authority

over tribal land or tribal gaming operations,” the statement read. “While Mr. Strange may target Victory Land and any other gaming facility in the state, this lawsuit against Poarch filed in Circuit Court is yet another example of Mr. Strange refusing to recognize the sovereignty of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.” A \$246 million expansion project at the tribe’s Wetumpka, Ala., property has come under fire from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and traditional Poarch Band members for its potential desecration of Hickory Ground, a pre-removal burial ground and sacred site. A federal lawsuit to stop the construction is currently pending in the Middle District Court of Alabama.

CREEK

Continued from Page 1

and the three other men arrested Feb. 15 will challenge the arrest under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Despite the excavation of 57 sets of human remains, Poarch Band officials maintain that the \$246 million casino expansion project does not violate any potentially applicable federal laws, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The land, which has been held in trust since 1984, is part of the Alabama tribe’s reservation and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

ULTIMATUM

Continued from Page 1

about purchasing the land, but I want to give the tribe every opportunity to buy it prior to me reaching out to those outside of the Native American community,” said Czywcznski. “This is a piece of history, and it is extremely difficult to put a dollar amount on what has occurred there,” he added. The land where arguably the most atrocious single act of genocide in American military history took place, and also where the American Indian Movement cemented itself in to the folklore of the American civil rights movement has been appraised by a local official as being worth only \$7,000 dollars, which is significantly less than the \$3.9 million price tag that Czywcznski, has placed on the land. However, Czywcznski responds to this appraisal by citing the significant historical events that have occurred there as something that the appraiser failed to consider when determining the monetary value of the land. “We are looking at two historical events that happened at the site; the first being the horrible events that took place in 1890, and then there is the takeover by the American Indian Movement in 1973,” he said. “The before and after effects of those two incidents add value to the land that must be taken into account. You cannot place a dollar amount on history,” Czywcznski said. Since Native Sun News broke the story that the land was for sale, word of the sale has gone global with the eyes of the world now turning towards the highly impoverished homelands of the Oglala Lakota. Tribal officials have stated

that the asking price is just too high for the tribe to buy the land at its current price, and have said they might be interested in buying the land back if the price was lower. “I am simply looking to get fair market value for the land. Demand plays a big part in the price of anything and this is a place where two historical events took place,” Czywcznski said. There has been speculation that the tribe could use money from the Cobell settlement that recently awarded \$3.4 billion to tribes from the federal government for the historical mismanagement of trust accounts held on behalf of tribes by the government. A portion of the \$3.4 billion was set aside for tribes to buy back highly fractionalized trust lands. A story released by the Associated Press reported that \$20 million dollars was set to be awarded to the tribe. However, the amount is actually much higher. The Oglala Sioux Tribe is projected to receive somewhere in the range of \$126 million dollars according to a report released by the Department of Interior as a result of the high number of fractionalized land interests on the reservation. The money is specifically earmarked for the buyback of fractionalized trust lands. The land owned by Czywcznski does not fall in to this category. There have been reports from other news outlets that have speculated about the intentions of Czywcznski, however he asserts that this is the first time he has made public his decision to implement time restraints on the purchase of the land.



NATIVE TIMES FILE | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
Members of the American Indian Movement observe the Department of Justice decision to remove government forces from around Wounded Knee with a ceremonial peace pipe smoking shown here on March 10, 1973. AIM leaders (from far right) Carter Camp; Russell Means (with pipe) and Dennis Banks lead the ceremony.

“I have not spoken with anyone about this yet, I am not sure where they are getting some of these reports saying that I have put a solid ultimatum on the tribe or anyone else. I haven’t done anything like that until now,” he said. “I have come to the decision that this is the best way to get the ball moving and I really hope that the land will end up in the hands of Native people. However, if nothing works out I have no choice but to auction the land at some point,” Czywcznski added.

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COMMENTARY

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Eliminating the Stanford Indian mascot

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE



DR. DEAN CHAVERS
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I got my notice of admission to graduate school at Stanford in March 1970. I was so happy about it that I took the letter to the Native American Studies department at Berkeley to show it around. Two of the funny guys there, Russell Walden and Bill Schaaf, started teasing me. They said, “So you’re going to be a Stanford Indian, ha ha.”

That irked me. Just the year before, 78 of us college students had taken over Alcatraz Island. We were militants and were determined to improve conditions for Indians. The racist Indian symbol stuck in our craw.

A couple of weeks later my wife Toni and I got into our little VW and took a drive down the Bayshore Freeway to see what Stanford was like. I told her about the comments from Russell and Bill, and she said, “That’s not right. We have to make them stop calling the Stanford teams the Stanford Indians. It’s too demeaning.”

When we got to the campus, someone pointed out the office of the assistant dean who was in charge of the Indian

program. He told us there were three Indian students on campus, but more would be coming in the fall when we got there. The three there were Russell Red Elk, Ella Anagick, and Rick West. Russ and Ella were undergraduates and Rick was in law school.

Stanford had sent two teams of people out, one to the south and one to the north, earlier that year. The northern team had been he and Russell Red Elk. They had covered the states east from Washington and Oregon to recruit students. The other team had covered the southern states east from California to Oklahoma.

They had found a total of 23 undergraduate Indian students who were admitted for the upcoming fall. In addition, there were a couple of graduate students coming in. John White was coming into the doctoral program in education. I was coming into the doctoral program in communication.

We quickly formed the Stanford American Indian Organization (SAIO) the first week we were there. Lorenzo Stars from Pine Ridge was the president. Our big goal the first year was to get rid of the Indian symbol. We learned that the Stanford Indian was Timm Williams, a Yurok Indian who worked for Gov. Ronald Reagan. His Indian nickname was Prince Lightfoot. He had first appeared at the Rose Bowl Game in 1952 dressed as a Plains Indian. He continued until the symbol was finally dropped in 1972.

The university had adopted

the Indian symbol way back in the 1920s, and the older alumni did not want to get rid of it. They would have Timm to dress up as a Plains Indian with a full headdress and prance around the field during the football games. He would put a curse or a hex on the other team, which we strongly disapproved of; it was a perversion of Indian religion. He would dance in a field of the Stanford Dollies, girls dressed in faux Indian costumes that were degrading to Indians.

We held a meeting with Timm about two months into the season. He promised to stop putting the hex on the other team, but the very next week he did it again. That was the last straw. We told him he had to quit doing the fake Indian dancing, which he refused to do.

Lorenzo carried the ball on the issue. Despite having a full course load, he went to numerous meetings of the Student Senate presenting them with the racism in the Indian symbol. Finally, near the end of the year, the Senate voted to remove the Indian symbol for Stanford sports. The administration never took action on the issue or voted on it. But the rest of the campus followed the lead of the Student Senate and renamed the teams the Stanford Cardinal. This means the color red, not the cardinal, a bird.

The next thing we know, the movement to eliminate racist Indian symbols took off on other campuses. The Dartmouth Indians got dropped. One of my friends

designed a poster with the New York Wops, the Cincinnati Guineas, the Los Angeles Spics, the Chicago Polacks, and various other fictitious team names to illustrate what Indians felt about the demeaning Stanford Indian symbol. It read “Now you know how we feel.”

But the Stanford Indian symbol hung around. Every year alumni would protest its elimination. Finally a petition in 1972 from the Indian students to Lois Amsterdam, the Stanford Ombudsman, sealed the deal. She threw her support to the elimination of the Indian symbol and it stuck. But restoring it is still around. Only a few years ago some alumni had t-shirts printed up with a caricature Indian symbol, big nose and all, with a scowl on his face, and wore them to some of the Stanford games.

Sentiment among alumni is still strong. In the only referendum on the issue, some 58% of Stanford students voted to keep the Indian mascot. The Student Senate and the president, however, have stood steadfast against reinstating it.

The members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) joined the movement in the 1980s. They got called names and spit on when they protested the Cleveland Indians symbol and its racist representation of the caricature Chief Wahoo. Later people filed lawsuits against the Washington Redskins, the Atlanta Braves, and other racist Indian team names.

Research later revealed that the number of teams with

racist Indian names was in the thousands. The Warriors, the Braves, the Red Men, the Redskins, the Chieftains, the Blackhawks, the Eskimos, the Navajo, the Apache, the Fighting Sioux, and the most hated name of all, the Squaws, hold sway from Washington to Maine. Stanford alumni organizations are still selling Stanford Indian items, including wall clocks, wrist watches, t-shirts, baseball caps, drinking glasses, cocktail glasses, wine boxes, and other memorabilia—all with the racist symbol.

Some teams have refused to this day to change their racist names. Among the notable football draggers are the Washington Redskins, the Atlanta Braves, and the Florida Seminoles. The Redskins are undergoing their perennial raking over the Indian coals as I write this. The Atlanta Braves are still doing their stupid and racist tomahawk chop; they don’t understand the racism of it, and don’t care. I have admired team owner Ted Turner for 40 years, but wish he could understand that he hurts Indian people with his racist symbols.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has condemned the use of Indian mascots. The NAACP has also condemned it. The NCAA has condemned it. The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has condemned it. The National Education Association called for its elimination. The American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, and the American Counseling Association have

all passed similar resolutions.

The states of Wisconsin, Colorado, Oregon, and Minnesota have all banned the use of racist Indian names for sports figures. Syracuse University has dropped the Indian symbol. Marquette changed from Warriors to Golden Eagles. St. Johns changed from the Red Men to the Red Storm. Even Squaw Peak in Phoenix got changed to Piestewa Peak in honor of a Hopi woman who was killed in the Army in Iraq.

Lorenzo did really well in his studies. He is now a doctor in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he has been practicing medicine for over 30 years. But a study five years into the Stanford Indian program found that the Indian dropout rate was 42%, which Stanford considered outrageously high. They had proudly maintained a graduation rate of 93% to 95% for decades. It was about a decade later that they hired an outstanding Indian administrator to turn things around.

Jim Larimore was there for a decade, and established the best Indian program in the nation by the early 1990s. When our daughter Monica started in 1992, the completion rate for Indians was 92%. It was all in what the Indian staff did. They just would not let a highly talented Indian student drop out. The Indian symbol was old history.

Dr. Dean Chavers has been writing this column for 32 years. His next book is “The American Indian Dropout.” Contact him at CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com.

Letter To The Editor: Elder questions Pawnee Council

HOUSTON WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!

Our Pawnee Tribe was awarded, and received 4.4 million dollars for the Nez Perce vs Salazar Case. The Tribal Council gave each enrolled Tribal member only \$610.87 as “our share.” There are approximately 3,000 members.

We have the following questions:

What was the “total amount”, or grand total, paid to the Tribal members?

What was the total number of Tribal members who were paid?

How much money was paid to Native American Rights Fund for winning the lawsuit?

How much money is left from the 4.4 million after deducting those payments?

How much of the 4.4 million is still in the bank....if any?

What has happened to the rest of the 4.4 million?

About a week ago I requested a copy of the minutes for the council meeting of August 25, 2012. That was the meeting where many tribal members expressed their need for a per cap payment. However, I called again today and was informed that those minutes have not been finished due to other priorities.

I have written to the Council concerning Tlibal finances and even hand delivered some to be sure they were received, but apparently they are ignored. Others have sent e-mails that were never answered. This has been our PROBLEM all along. We are left in the dark concerning tribal monies, not to mention the money for our “bridge to nowhere” that is now completed and leads to our Tribal Reserve.

The \$610.87 we received was just a trickle of the amount we feel is owed to us. Of course we were glad to get it, but now we want the rest of our money. There should be around 2.5 million dollars left. If this estimate is wrong, then the Council needs to tell us the correct amount.

Lillie Cummings, Pawnee Elder
Pawnee, Okla.

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Washington GM defends team nickname, says ‘Redskins’ nothing offensive

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) – Washington Redskins general manager Bruce Allen said Feb. 14 the team isn’t considering a new nickname, adding that it’s “ludicrous” to suggest that the franchise is trying to upset Native Americans.

“There’s nothing that we feel is offensive,” Allen said. “And we’re proud of our history.”

Opposition to “Redskins” has gained momentum following the recent symposium at the Smithsonian that was heavily critical of the use of the word,

citing its history as an offensive term. Local columnists and commentators have called for the team to change its name in recent days.

The Washington team has responded with website postings featuring interviews with officials from the 70 high schools they say still called themselves “Redskins.”

Speaking at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the team’s new training camp facility, Allen also told reporters that Robert Griffin III was “progressing well”

in rehabilitation from knee reconstruction surgery, but that the team doctors will ultimately decide whether the franchise quarterback will be ready in time for the start of the season.

Allen said the team is still fighting the \$36 million salary cap penalty levied by the league last year for excessive spending during the uncapped 2010 season. The first \$18 million was docked last year, with the other \$18 million hit coming when free agency starts next month.

“I think the penalty was wrong and it was unfair,” Allen said. “There are plenty of things we can do.”

He declined to go into specifics.

Allen also said the team is coming up with a plan to improve the team’s stadium field, which was torn up by the end of the season and prompted criticism from opposing players. He said the team missed an opportunity to re-sod during the season and would plan differently this year.

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Mich. legislator: Rescind Indian mascot complaint

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Michigan’s House Education committee chairwoman is calling on a state department to rescind its complaint over the use of American Indian mascots in schools.

Alto Republican Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons released a statement Monday criticizing the Michigan Department of Civil Rights for taking its complaint to the federal level.

The department filed the complaint recently with the U.S. Department of

Education’s Office of Civil Rights asking to ban the use of American Indian mascots and imagery in K-12 schools and deny funding to schools that continue to use them. The complaint says the use of the mascots denies equal rights to American Indian students.

Lyons says the department is “putting students’ education funding at risk for political gain.” She says the issue should be resolved at the local level.

Supporters of Fighting Sioux name make appeal

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) – Supporters of the University of North Dakota’s retired nickname made one last push to restore the Fighting Sioux moniker Feb. 14 in front of a three-judge appeals panel in St. Paul, Minn.

The Grand Forks Herald reports that lawyers for the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe’s pro nickname Committee for Understanding and Respect asked the Eighth U.S. Court of Appeals to reverse a district court order dismissing their

lawsuit against the NCAA.

A judge dismissed the lawsuit last May. Nickname supporters at the Spirit Lake and Standing Rock Sioux reservations claimed they were not included in discussions when the NCAA and the state negotiated a settlement to retire the nickname.

Sixty-eight-percent of North Dakota voters last June voted to drop the nickname deemed “hostile and abusive” by the NCAA.

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Request for Qualifications

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is advertising for Construction Management Services for the construction of the Tribal Elderly Nutritional Center which is located west of 900 Agency Road on the Pawnee Tribal Reserve which is located east of Pawnee, Oklahoma. The complete Request for Qualifications including the criteria that will be used to select the most qualified firm is available upon written request.

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Qualifications documents must be received no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, March 15, 2013.

Point of Contact for Information: Muriel Robedeaux, ICDBG Coordinator

Contact: Marshall Gover, President, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, (918) 762-3621, Fax: (918) 762-6446. Attn: ICDBG Tribal Elderly Nutritional Center Project.

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Friendly bout of hand games unites Tulsa Indian clubs

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

SKIATOOK, Okla. – When members of the Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa met those of the Tulsa Indian Club Saturday at the First Baptist Church of Skiatook for a round of hand games, it was anyone’s guess who would win.

The hand game is a Native American guessing game that goes back to ancient history. Called a “stick game” in some parts of the country, the game has continued through oral history as instructions were passed down through the generations along with the objects used to play the game. Such is the case with Bruce Cass.

For the second year, Cass was asked by IICOT to run the game between the two Tulsa clubs.

“The way my grandfather taught me to run these hand games is for fellowship and fun and to be involved in our Osage ways,” Cass said. “We’re not going to put anybody on the spot or make fun of you.

Everything we’re doing is in good fun.”

When he was little, his grandfather, the late Dan Cass, taught him the rules of Osage-style hand games.

Tribes all over the continent

have their own variations on this game of guess-which-hand-it’s-in, but they all use specific objects in play. Saturday, Cass’ set of vividly painted and beaded sticks and gourd rattlers include six sticks painted bright yellow, one longer than the others. There are six corresponding sticks painted in red for the opposing team. In addition to the four gourd rattles, there are four capsule-shaped pills made of beads and called “beads.” Two are yellow and two red.

Cass received his set from his grandmother, Marion Cass, who received them from her mother, Lillie Bighorse Cunningham. An original Osage allottee, Cunningham’s family was given the set from an Otoe family that had visited them in the Pawhuska Indian village many years ago.

As if was done back then, the hand game between Tulsa’s two Indian clubs began with a prayer. At prayer’s end, teams selected which side would send the first guesser. Then, the drum group struck up a beat and began singing.

Song is important to hand games as entertainment but also as a means of stoking gamesmanship. In an Osage-style game, the drum group plays on while one team sends



J. LANIER | COURTESY

Canaan Barnett of Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa and Sinihele Rhoades of the Tulsa Indian Club speak with Bruce Cass before the hand game competition begins.

over a guesser, who is given the team’s long stick. Among the opposing team, two members each are given their team’s small beads. These “hid-ers” secretly hide a bead in one of their hands and the guesser must choose which palms contain the beads by pointing it out with the long stick. It becomes more complicated, if not entertaining, as the hid-ers move their hands in different motions. The rest of the team joins in with clapping, cheering, movement and chanting to distract the guesser.

Hand games have a psychological element. Teams practice their poker face, and if it’s no good, players have been known to avert their eyes so as not to subconsciously give away the answer.

“People are good at that,”

Cass said. “It’s not just a good guess. You’re trying to read these people that you’re playing.”

Who are consistently among the best hand game players?

“Children,” Cass said.

The aforementioned painted sticks are used to score the game. The first team to get all ten sticks on their side wins.

Following each match, the rattling gourds are handed out, two to each side, which signals that it’s time to dance. Round dances, warrior dances, honorary giveaways and other types of games are smashed into these intervals before another hand game match begins. This is the way Cass’ family, which has been asked to officiate over area hand games for many years, has done it, whether the games are held for someone’s birthday, as

a fundraiser for a member of the community or just for the sake of playing. Games can go on for days complete with dinners and tournament-style play.

Saturday’s IICOT versus TIC game was the second go between the clubs. Last year’s game (IICOT challenged TIC as a fundraiser for the organization and won) was the first in what is hoped will become an annual event, said IICOT President Lynnetta Blalock Seward, Shawnee/Osage/Ojibwe/Peoria.

“This is about the community coming together and having a good time together,” she said.

And community includes all who want to play. Cass said anyone who walks in to the game is invited to participate.

“It’s just like any other thing,

any other game. It can really get intense. It’s really a lot of fun,” said Robert Anquoe, treasurer of the Tulsa Indian Club.

As both of Tulsa’s Native American organization come together to play, it sets an example to the rest of the Indian community, Anquoe said.

Blalock Seward agreed.

“They (TIC) are our sister organization, and Tulsa is fortunate to have two organizations to host events in our city,” she said.

And fellowship is what hand games today are about in Oklahoma, even though that means one side eventually defeats the other. IICOT won Saturday’s match, but there’s always next year.



KAREN SHADE | NATIVETIMES

Intertribal Indian Club member Ethan Wakeford (standing) guesses which hands Tulsa Indian Club players Teri Rhoades (center) and Michael McBride III are holding the hidden beads.



EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

***Email your powwow or other event info to:** Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY
The Veterans’ Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee

Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihccr.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

FEBRUARY 28
Showing of “Barking Water” by Sterlin Harjo, University of Tulsa, Lorton Performance Center, Meinig Recital Hall, 550 S. Gary Place, Tulsa, OK. 7:00 pm. Free and Open to the Public. Info call Teresa Runnels, 918-549-7472.

MARCH 2
Caddo Festival, “Balance and Order in Traditional Ways.” Oklahoma History Center, NE 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK. Crafts demonstrations, symposium and dance performances. For more information: 405-522-0765.

Wild Onion Dinner at Billy Hooton Memorial United Methodist Church, 2444 NW 1st Terrance, Oklahoma City from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$7, Children \$3.50. Menu: Salt port, red beans, fry bread, potatoes, hominy, dessert, iced tea. For more info 405.235.4777

Peoria Stomp Dance and Annual Peoria Council Meeting, Ottawa-Peoria Cultural Center, 114 S. Eight Tribes Trail (from turnpike, north on Hwy 69a to 2nd right turn onto Eight Tribes Trail), Miami, OK. Information: 918-540-2535.

Salt Creek UMC Annual Wild Onion Dinner -All You Can Eat! 11am-3pm. Adults \$10, Children \$5. Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, 224 E. Poplar. Arts & Crafts vendors welcome. Call Doug Scott for intro 405-379-3125.

Seminole Hitchitee United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner. All you can eat, Adults - \$10, Children - \$7. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, Seminole Community Center (by the golf course), Seminole, OK For more information contact: Pastor Rick Deer (405) 667-3152

Western Heights Indian Education Pow-Wow, 1pm-10pm, 8401 SW 44th, Oklahoma City. Info call Angela Williams 405-350-3420

American Indian Festival of Words, all day on the Plaza in front of the Tulsa City-County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa OK. For more information and an agenda: Teresa Runnels, 918-549-7472.

MARCH 9
UKB Blowgun Shoot, Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the pavilion on the UKB Celebration Grounds. Men’s, women’s and youth—13 years old and younger divisions. Info call Choogie Kingfisher at 918-772-4372 or email him at culture@unitedkeetoowahband.org.

MARCH 15
WILD ONION DINNER at New Hope Indian Church, 910 W. 9th in Dewey, OK, all day from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Adults \$7.00 --- Children \$4:00

MARCH 16
Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

2013-2014 Miss and Mr. Indian OU Pageant, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm, Meacham Auditorium, OU Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK.

Native High School All-Star Game, Shawnee, Okla. Info email michael.logan@potawatomi.org

Wild Onion Dinner at Haikey Chapel UMC, 8805 E 101st St, Tulsa. 11 am till 3 pm. Adults \$7.50 and child’s dinners for \$ 3.50. Wild Onions, brown beans, frybread, corn, grape dumplings, sofke, choice of ham or salt meat, a dessert and drink.

MARCH 19
11th Annual Spring Celebration, “Celebrate YOUTH.” Sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Youth Coalition. 8:30 am-2:00 pm, Beggs High School Dome, 1201 West 9th St., Beggs, OK. Open to all Native Youth and Families. Free with door prizes and lunch. Special youth art contest and submission deadline is 5:00 pm, February 18. For more information: 918-224-9307.

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Inside this issue:

- Oklahoma gaming revenues up
- Ponca Tribe considers constitutional overhaul
- Grammy winner brings Wellness Tour to Okla.



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 9

MARCH 8, 2013



JACQUELYN MARTIN | ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In this Jan. 23, 2013, file photo, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif., holds a news conference on Capitol Hill to discuss the reintroduction of the Violence Against Women Act. Calling a truce in the partisan battles, Congress appears ready to send to President Barack Obama a bill that renews and expands the nation's primary law on protecting women from domestic violence.

Congress passes bill renewing anti-violence law

JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – House Republicans raised the white flag Thursday on extending domestic violence protections to gays, lesbians and transsexuals after months of resisting an expansion of the Violence Against Women Act. GOP leaders, who had tried to limit the bill before last November's election, gave the go-ahead for the House to accept a more ambitious Senate version written mainly by Democrats. Democrats, with a minority of Republicans, were key to the 286-138 House vote that sent to President Barack Obama a

renewal of the 1994 law that has set the standard for how to protect women, and some men, from domestic abuse and prosecute abusers. It was the third time this year that House Speaker John Boehner has allowed Democrats and moderates in his own party to prevail over the GOP's much larger conservative wing. As with a Jan. 1 vote to avoid the fiscal cliff and legislation to extend Superstorm Sandy aid, a majority of House Republicans voted against the final anti-violence bill. Obama, in a statement, said "renewing this bill is an

See LAW Continued on Page 5

Indian Country leaders, advocates celebrate passage of VAWA

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – Leaders and victims advocates across Indian Country welcomed the Feb. 27 vote by the U.S. House of Representatives last week to renew the Violence Against Women Act with expanded tribal provisions. "We are pleased that the House has voted to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with all tribal provisions intact," Citizen Potawatomi Nation vice chairman Linda Capps said. "We have an outstanding court system and have a better understanding of our citizens needs than anyone else. It is only fitting that we are allowed the opportunity to practice our sovereignty and protect the mothers, daughters and sisters of our great nation. We applaud those who supported the reauthorization and look forward to it being signed into law by President Obama."



Linda Capps, Vice Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

First passed in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act is credited with reducing domestic violence rates by two-thirds nationwide. It was renewed in 2000 and 2005 with bipartisan support and was brought forward for renewal in 2012 during the 112th Congress before stalling in the House of Representatives. A version reintroduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy (I-Vt.) passed through the U.S. Senate Feb. 12 by a 78-22 margin.

President Barack Obama

See VAWA Continued on Page 4

Wounded Knee anniversary marked with gunfire, chants

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

WOUNDED KNEE, S.D. (AP) – A Pine Ridge Indian Reservation resident who found herself in the middle of the 1973 Wounded Knee occupation said Feb. 27 amid ceremonial gunfire and chants that little has changed since the fatal standoff. Faith White Dress was on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation 40 years ago when about 200

members of the American Indian Movement and their supporters huddled in houses, some with guns, to protest alleged corruption within the tribal government. Two Native Americans were killed, an activist went missing and a federal agent was wounded. White Dress and others gathered last Wednesday to remember the fatal 71-day standoff. During gunfire to mark the anniversary of the start of the occupation, she

said the Oglala Sioux Tribe is still struggling. "Unemployment is so high and the oppression is still so bad," she said. "I don't think it's going to take violence. It's going to take a gathering to determine how to bring jobs here. We need libraries. We need more of our children to have a better future." Hundreds of people walked from nearby villages to the site of the occupation, drumming and chanting. Once at the site, the same

place where in 1890 soldiers slaughtered an estimated 300 Native American men, women and children, AIM and their supporters continued to drum and chant and fire off gunshots into the air. This year's events include memorials for AIM's charismatic leader, Russell Means, who died in October at age 72 after battling throat cancer. This is the first

See ANNIVERSARY Continued on Page 4



KRISTI EATON | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Members of the American Indian Movement stand near the Wounded Knee Massacre Monument, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 in Wounded Knee, S.D. Last week marked the 40th anniversary of the start of the 71-day occupation in the village of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Hundreds of AIM members and other supporters turned out for a day of ceremonies to commemorate the anniversary of the fatal standoff that drew national attention to the impoverished reservation and the plight of local tribes.

ACLU: Many IHS facilities not offering emergency contraception

■ A 2009 report found that more than half of IHS pharmacies offer no emergency contraception at all.

NEW YORK – On Feb. 26, after reports that more than half of Indian Health Services facilities do not offer emergency contraception despite laws requiring them to, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Native American Community Board filed a Freedom of Information Act request with IHS seeking information on policies governing access to emergency contraception at IHS facilities. "A woman who gets her health care from IHS has the same right as anyone else to access the medication she needs to make her own decisions about whether and when to start a family," NACB CEO Charon Asetoyer said. "By failing to ensure that IHS facilities adequately

stock or provide emergency contraception, the federal government is not living up to its legal obligations to Native American women." According to NACB reports, only a small percentage of the facilities offer emergency contraception as mandated by Federal Drug Administration guidelines. A 2009 NACB report found that only 10 percent of IHS pharmacies made emergency contraception available over the counter, 37.5 percent of pharmacies only offered an alternative contraceptive that requires a prescription and approximately 53 percent offered no form of emergency contraception at all. If used within 120 hours, emergency contraception can safely prevent pregnancy after contraceptive failure, unprotected sex or a sexual assault. It is most effective the sooner it is taken, with effectiveness decreasing every 12 hours.

For some Native American women, if emergency contraception is unavailable at their IHS facility, the next alternative may be hundreds of miles away. The distance and potentially insurmountable transportation costs make timely access to emergency contraception difficult, if not impossible, for many women. According to statistics, more than one in three Native women will be raped in their lifetime, more than double the rate reported by women of all other races. A woman who is sexually

assaulted and relies on IHS may not be able to take necessary steps to prevent a pregnancy that occurs as the result of rape. "In light of our country's long and unfortunate record of violating Indian women's reproductive rights and autonomy, these reports are particularly alarming," Alexa Kolbi-Molinas, ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project staff attorney said. "The federal government must explain what steps it is taking to ensure that the status quo does not continue."



Plan B One-Step is intended to prevent pregnancy after known or suspected contraceptive failure or unprotected intercourse.

Ponca Tribe considers constitutional overhaul

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WHITE EAGLE, Okla. – Citizens of the Ponca Tribe are being asked to consider overhauling their constitution.

“Our constitution is a basically a boilerplate,” Ponca Business Committee member Oliver Littlecook said. “It fit our needs back in the 1940s and 1950s, but not so much any more.”

Adopted in 1950 under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, the Ponca Tribe’s constitution was last amended in 2000. Since August, tribally-sponsored town hall meetings to discuss potential changes have been held at the tribe’s complex near Ponca City, at Oklahoma City and in Tulsa. Planning efforts are underway for an additional meeting in the Wichita, Kan., area, and a final meeting at the tribal complex this spring before submitting a final version to the Department of Interior for consideration. Littlecook’s goal is to submit it to the federal government by the end of June.

After the DOI approves the proposed changes, Ponca voters will have a chance to ratify the amendments as early as summer 2014.

“We’ve had four or five Constitutional committees meet in the last 30 or so years to possibly change it, but they’ve all gotten sidetracked,” Littlecook said. “Things have got to change. We’ve got to implement some checks and balances so the power isn’t quite so concentrated in the hands of a few people.”

Among the proposed amendments are sections that would eliminate the seven-member Ponca Business Committee and replace it with a three-branch government

similar to those of the Osage and Muscogee (Creek) Nations.

Under the current constitution, tribal citizens who run for a seat on the Ponca Business Committee must be at least 21 years old, a resident of Kay or Noble county in north central Oklahoma and not have any felony convictions or dishonorable military discharges.

The proposed constitution would retain the restrictions concerning felons and dishonorable discharges, and would require Ponca citizens interested in running for office to be at least 25 years old, have a high school diploma or a GED and be an Oklahoma resident, thus allowing citizens living outside the tribe’s jurisdictional area of Kay and Noble counties to potentially hold office.

The exact titles of the executive branch members are still in flux, as is the number of members of the proposed legislature.

There is also some discussion as to whether to set a higher blood quantum requirement only for executive branch candidates.

“I’m not OK with having a one-quarter blood quantum requirement for these executive offices,” Ponca Tribe citizen Terri Buffalohead said. “It should just be the same as the membership requirements.”

The Ponca Tribe requires its citizens to be at least one-eighth Ponca by blood and have at least one parent enrolled in the tribe. It has about 4,200 enrolled citizens and does not allow for dual citizenship with other tribes.

If ratified, the new constitution would also formally change the tribe’s name from the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma to the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma.

Okla. tribal gaming revenue up 7.7 percent

STAFF REPORT

OKLAHOMA CITY – According to a California economist’s report released on Feb. 27, Oklahoma Indian gaming tribes produced nearly \$3.48 billion in revenues in 2011 – an increase of 7.7 percent over 2010’s \$3.23 billion.

The 7.7 percent more than doubles the 3.4 percent national Indian gaming growth rate, according to the 2013 Casino City’s Indian Gaming Industry Report by economist Alan Meister, of Nathan Associates Inc.

Gaming tribes in Oklahoma also created about \$49.4 million in non-gaming revenue from sources such as beverages, food, shopping, lodging and entertainment at gaming facilities in 2011, a 7.9 percent increase over 2010, the report states.

Despite the rise in revenue from gaming tribes in Oklahoma, the state received less money from tribal compact fees. In 2011, the state garnered \$121.7 million, which was down from \$122.7 million in 2010, state officials said.

The report states the reason for the drop in compact fees was because Oklahoma gaming tribes decreased the percentage of compacted nonhouse-banked table games such as poker, as well as the percentage of Class III games. It also states Oklahoma tribes increased the number of Class II games, which do not require compact fees.

According to the report, gaming tribes in Oklahoma increased the percentages of Class III games from 2005-08 as the National Indian Gaming Commission tightened Class II game limitations, making them less like Class III games. However, in 2008 the NIGC withdrew those limitations, which led to a decline of Class III games, dropping to 60 percent in 2011.

In 2012, however, Oklahoma gaming tribes paid more to the state as compact fees rose to nearly \$127.8 million. State officials said this was due to more casinos operating more total games rather than more Class III games being installed.

According to the report, Indian gaming generated about \$27.43 billion nationally in 2011, a 3 percent increase over 2010’s total. The revenue increase

is the second in as many years following a first-ever drop in Indian casino revenue in 2009 as the worst recession in decades took its toll on consumer spending. The back-to-back increases in revenue are encouraging, the report said.

“The question is how much further can Indian gaming grow?” author Alan Meister said.

The outlook for Indian gambling now



NATIVE TIMES FILE PHOTO

Oklahoma Indian gaming tribes produced nearly \$3.48 billion in revenues in 2011 and created about \$49.4 million in non-gaming revenue from sources such as beverages, food, shopping, lodging and entertainment at facilities such as the Cherokee Nation’s Hard Rock Hotel and Casino shown here.

appears healthy because the economy is expected to continue improving, restoring consumer spending, Meister said. In addition, many tribes are upgrading, expanding and replacing casinos.

The report states that nationally 242 tribes operated more than 7,700 table games and 341,000 gaming machines in 460 gaming facilities in 28 states. Those tribes also provided approximately \$12.3 billion in wages and 339,000 jobs,

the report states. It added that tribal casinos nationally paid approximately \$1.4 billion to nontribal governments.

But the long-term outlook for Indian gambling is uncertain, Meister said. Potential threats include continuing legal challenges – such as a land dispute court case in Michigan that Meister said increases the likelihood of other legal challenges to gambling projects – and state regulations that restrict Indian casinos and limit expansion. Indian casinos face “a lot more” restrictions than their commercial counterparts, he said.

“That, in some ways, holds back Indian gaming from what it could potentially be,” Meister said.

Other potential challenges include increasingly saturated markets, rising competition and Internet gambling.

Indian gambling generated about 43 percent of U.S. casino gambling revenue in 2011, the report states. Revenue at commercial casinos was 45 percent and revenue from racinos – casinos that operate at race tracks – accounted for the remaining 12 percent. That’s unchanged from 2010, but represents a huge gain from the Indian casino share of less than 20 percent in 1993.

Both Indian and commercial casinos could lose business to racinos, he said. State approval of gambling is easier at race tracks where betting already occurs than establishing new casinos, Meister said.

Revenue growth varied from as much as 26 percent in Alabama to minus 3 percent in New York. After Alabama, the fastest-growing states were Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

The top five states – Washington, Florida, Connecticut, California and Oklahoma – accounted for about 61 percent of total gambling revenue.

Ironically, the weak economy has helped spur casino growth among states seeking more revenue, Meister said.

For more information, visit www.casinocitypress.com.

– *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma

MSPI YOUTH SPRING DANCE

White Eagle Cultural Center

Ponca City, OK

MARCH 23, 2013

Master of Ceremonies: Lester Eagle (Ponca)

Head Singer: Robert Collins (Ponca)

Headman Hethuska & Head Gourd Dancer: Lance Carney (Ponca)

Head Girl Dancer: Brooke Stoner (Tonkawa/Ponca)

Arena Director: Charles Warrior (Tonkawa/Ponca)

Honored Elder: Douglas Eagle (Ponca)

Water Carrier: Patrick Warrior (Tonkawa/Ponca)

Special Guest:
Riverside Indian School Apache Fire Dancer - Anadarko, OK

HETHUSKA DANCING • 2:00 p.m.

SUPPERBREAK • 5:30 p.m.

GOURD DANCING • 7:00 p.m.

Approximately 25 children will dance for the first time. The MSPI Program Director and Staff have provided the children’s clothes and moccasins. All parents and relatives are encouraged to come support this cultural event.

Giveaway time will be honored for anyone requesting it. Please check with the Master of Ceremonies. Come support the Youth Cultural Event of the MSPI program. Bring your own chairs, dishes, bowls, etc.

For more information please contact: Cynthia Vetter (580) 304-5628

VAWA

Continued from Page 1

has pledged to sign the bill as soon as possible, which will authorize \$660 million annually through 2018 for grants to programs that provide transitional housing, legal assistance, law enforcement training and hotline services. “Today is a big win for all victims of domestic violence,” said Tracey Lyons, executive director of Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Tulsa, Okla. “We are pleased the House of Representatives passed the Violence Against Women Act. Not only will VAWA maintain the support programs currently in place, but its extensions are now inclusive of all who need protection. Everyone deserves protection from violence and we applaud our elected officials for recognizing this need.”

Once enacted, VAWA will provide a limited expansion of tribal jurisdiction by allowing tribal courts to prosecute non-Natives accused of domestic violence or date-related violence against Native women on Indian land rather than passing those cases on to federal officials. That jurisdiction would not extend to crimes committed on non-tribal land or to crimes outside VAWA’s scope, such as robbery or identity theft.

According to the Indian Law Resource Center, non-Natives are responsible for 88 percent of all crimes committed against Native women. Figures from a 2010 Government Accountability Office report showed that federal prosecutors declined to pursue two-thirds of sexual abuse cases from Indian Country between 2005 and 2009.

“This is a huge stepping stone,” Choctaw Nation citizen Tabatha Harris said. “Now here comes the hard work, as tribal nations and leaders need to step up and show their support for women.”

Thursday’s 286-138 vote came after House lawmakers rejected a more limited approach offered by Republicans that removed special protections for Native American women, undocumented immigrants and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Among the 87 Republicans voting in favor of the Senate version was Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.). A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and one of two enrolled tribal citizens in the House of Representatives, Cole was the only member of Oklahoma’s Congressional delegation to vote for the Senate version of the bill and was among the representatives who attempted to forge a compromise between the House and Senate proposals. “Tribal authorities will

finally have the same ability to police and protect their land that all other local jurisdictions already enjoy,” Cole said. “The absence of adequate judicial and legal authority given to tribes has made reservations places where domestic violence and sexual assaults are all too common. Hunters know where to hunt; fishermen know where to fish. And predators know where to prey. The passage of the Violence Against Women Act gives tribes badly needed tools to combat the epidemic of violence and abuse in Indian Country.”

A spokesman for the House of Representatives’ other enrolled tribal citizen, Cherokee Nation citizen Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), said the freshman member had no comment on his vote against the bill.

Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla.), whose district includes portions of the Cherokee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Delaware Tribe and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, said he voted against the bill due to Constitutional concerns.

“The Violence Against Women Act empowers Indian tribal courts to adjudicate domestic criminal charges against non-Indians and authorize the confinement of convicted offenders,” he said. “It is important to prosecute and punish domestic violence criminals on tribal lands, but there are ways to do it without violating the United State Constitution.

“Under Article II, Section 2, Congress can only vest the appointment of federal officers and judges in the President, a court of law, or the head of a department. In contrast to this requirement, tribal court judges are appointed by tribes. Not the President, a court of law, or the head of a department, so they cannot exercise federal power. A simple bill passed by the U.S. Congress cannot change the Constitution of the United States. This law, if desired, requires a constitutional amendment.”

Despite the concerns and opposition from some Republican lawmakers, many community members still see Thursday’s decision as a victory and an opportunity to move forward.

“We appreciate Rep. Tom Cole and other members of Congress who fought to protect the rights of American Indian women by passing this legislation,” Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. “Protection of its citizens is one of the most important responsibilities of any government and this act provides the tools to enable tribal governments to do even more to help keep American Indian women safe.”

Wisconsin Senate passes mining bill

TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – Wisconsin Republicans inched closer Wednesday to passing their divisive mining legislation, pushing the proposal through the state Senate by a single vote after a draining debate with Democrats who insist the measure will open the door to devastating pollution.

The bill will now go to the state Assembly. Republicans who control that chamber have scheduled a vote for next week. Passage is all but certain. From there the legislation will go to GOP Gov. Scott Walker for his signature.

Republicans have been working for nearly two years to help Gogebic Taconite dig an open-pit mine in the Penokee Hills just south of Lake Superior. Their bill would make sweeping changes to the state’s mining rules to clear the company’s regulatory path. Republicans insist the measure would help the company create hundreds of jobs at the mine and pave the way for thousands more around the state. Walker, eager to deliver on job creation promises, wants the bill on his desk.

“What you have in front of you tonight is a 21st-century mining bill,” said Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Hazelhurst, the bill’s chief Senate sponsor. “Now we have the possibility of a rebirth of an industry here in the state of Wisconsin.”

Democrats and conservationists contend the job promises are wildly exaggerated. They argue the bill would loosen environmental protections and allow the mine to pollute one of the last pristine areas of the state.

“Nobody wins tonight,” said Sen. Bob Jauch, D-Poplar, whose district includes the mine site. “The fact of the

matter is illusion has fed the public appetite that somehow there are thousands of jobs right around the corner ... We are one vote short of a responsible state Senate that cares about the future of this state.”

Under the bill, the state Department of Natural Resources would have up to 480 days to make a permitting decision. Right now, the process is open-ended. The public couldn’t challenge a DNR permit decision until after it was made, and damage a mine might cause to wetlands would be presumed necessary. Applicants would have to submit a plan to compensate for damage, however, which would include a proposal for creating up to an acre and a half of new wetlands for every acre impacted.

A mining company’s permit application fees would be capped at \$2 million plus the DNR’s expenses for delineating wetland boundaries. Tax on a company’s revenue would be split 60-40 between local governments and the state. Current law imposes no cap on application fees and calls for all taxes on revenue to go to local governments to offset mining impacts.

The bill also exempts mining companies from the state’s \$7 per ton recycling fee on waste materials. That exemption could result in a potential loss of up to \$171 million annually the state would collect from Gogebic Taconite for environmental protection programs.

Republicans proposed a nearly identical bill during the last legislative session but they had only a 17-16 edge in the Senate. The proposal failed by one vote after moderate Republican Dale Schultz of Richland Center sided with Democrats against it.

But voters handed the GOP an 18-15 majority in the Senate this past November, rendering Schultz irrelevant. Powerless to stop the bill, Democrats chose to drag out debate Wednesday.

For nearly nine hours they pounded away at the same themes they have been trumpeting for months, arguing the bill would clear the way for mining waste to contaminate area waters and rob local governments of mining tax revenue. They blasted the measure as a sweetheart deal for Gogebic Taconite and predicted the legislation would end up in court.

Republicans countered the bill balances environmental protection with job creation.

“We’re at a point now where we should be looking at each and every opportunity we have and this is right in front of us ... I have no idea why we’re trying to chase it away,” Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said.

In the end the measure passed 17-16. Spectators in the chamber’s overhead gallery yelled “Boo!” and “Thanks for signing our death warrant!” as the body adjourned.

One of the bill’s staunchest opponents is the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The tribe’s reservation lies just north of the mine site, and members fear the mine would pollute the reservation’s water and destroy their wild rice beds.

As debate began in the Senate, tribal members joined with the usual daily group of about 100 protesters two floors down in the Capitol to sing songs, play drums, dance and hold anti-mine signs.

“Scary is not the word for it,” said Annie Maday, a 60-year-old Bad River tribal council member. “It’s devastating. They’re going to destroy my home.”

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from Page 1

anniversary of the occupation since Means’ death.

About 200 people gathered at a high school on Pine Ridge for the second of four planned ceremonies to honor Means. Friends, family and colleagues recalled Means as a man who taught his people how to stand up for themselves.

“He was articulate ... a proud Lakota,” said Oglala Sioux president Bryan Brewer. “Today he is a version of our modern day Crazy Horse.”

AIM leaders herald how much life has improved for Native Americans since the Wounded Knee occupation and other events in the 1970s. AIM was started in the late 1960s to protest the

U.S. government’s treatment of American Indians and demand that it honor its treaties with Indian tribes.

During the standoff, White Dress and two of her friends from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation skipped school, sneaked through barricades and stumbled into the middle of the action. The 14-year-olds were able to find shelter with a woman who persuaded the girls to sing songs to drown out the gunfire that erupted at all hours of the day.

Tribal members such as White Dress now quietly acknowledge that although the occupation put Pine Ridge on the map, it has had little lasting effects. With unemployment on

the reservation as high as 80 percent, a job in tribal government is coveted. And for those who don’t have one, life can be hard, White Dress said.

“There’s a lot of animosity amongst the people,” added White Dress, who is unemployed and takes care of her grandchildren.

Those same divisions were evident 40 years ago at the start of the occupation and the previous decade when members of AIM and their backers fought then-tribal President Dick Wilson and his supporters, as well as the FBI, which has jurisdiction on tribal land.

“It hasn’t changed at all, which is sad,” said Wendell Bird Head, a tribal member who now lives in Cresent, Iowa, and teaches Lakota. Bird Head was 19 when the

Tribe worried about mine has own pollution issues

BAYFIELD, Wis. (AP) – A Lake Superior Chippewa band worried about the possible environmental impact of a proposed iron ore mine in northwestern Wisconsin has its own pollution issues, according to federal records.

Bad River Band has had numerous violations of water quality standards at its wastewater treatment plant, which serves some residents of the reservation in Ashland County, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Excessive levels of E. coli and phosphorus were first reported by Media Trackers, an organization that does research for conservative causes. E. coli is a marker for the presence of fecal contamination, and phosphorus can harm fish and aquatic animals because it accelerates plant and algae growth.

The tribe and its chairman, Mike Wiggins Jr., have been sharply critical of Gogebic Taconite’s plan to construct an open pit mine in Bayfield and Iron counties. The Bad River fear sulfides in waste rock could harm tribal lands upstream on the shore of Lake Superior.

Bad River’s plant is currently operating without a permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but has not been fined.

standoff started and tried unsuccessfully to get past the road blocks to join in.

Others, however, are adamant that the occupation brought about greater sovereignty for tribes.

“Tribes started getting independent and speaking up,” said Herb Powless, 76, of Oneida, Wis.

Powless, a member of the Oneida Nation, traveled to Pine Ridge in the early 70s at the behest of AIM following the death of Raymond Yellow Thunder, an Oglala Sioux tribal member killed by four white men.

Powless later was arrested in Hot Springs after authorities found 600 pounds of dynamite and a variety of weapons in his car. Already a convicted felon, he spent a year in prison in Sioux Falls.

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Applications open for Miss Indian World 2013

ALBUQUEQUE, N.M. – The 30th annual Gathering of Nations is accepting applications for the 2013 Miss Indian World competition.

Every year, American Indian women representing different tribes and traditions compete for the title in the areas of tribal knowledge, dancing ability, public speaking, essay and personality assessment. The 2013 winner will serve as a cultural goodwill ambassador for all Native and indigenous people on behalf of the Gathering of Nations for one year.

Once selected, contestants will compete in a traditional

talent presentation representing their tribe, public speaking ability, private interviews with the judges, a dance competition through powwow music and raffle ticket sales at the event.

The Miss Indian World Pageant begins with the talent presentations at 6 p.m. on April 25 in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque and continues throughout the Gathering of Nations taking place at The University of New Mexico's University Arena.

The new Miss Indian World will be crowned at 8:30 pm on April 27 at the powwow.

To compete, candidates

must be between the ages of 18 and 25, never been married, have no children and have knowledge of tribal traditions.

Applications must include a personal essay, two letters of recommendation, a current photograph and proof of tribal affiliation. All current tribal royalty and all young Native ladies are encouraged to apply. Applications must be received by March 20 at 3301 Coors Road NW, R300 Albuquerque, N.M. 87120, or sent by fax to 505-839-0475.

For more information or for an application, visit http://www.gatheringofnations.com/miss_indian_world/

LAW

Continued from Page 1

important step towards making sure no one in America is forced to live in fear” and said he would sign the bill “as soon as it hits my desk.”

The law has been renewed twice before without controversy, but it lapsed in 2011 as it was caught up in the partisan battles that now divide Congress. Last year, the House refused to go along with a Senate-passed bill that would have made clear that lesbians, gays, immigrants and Native American women should have equal access to Violence Against Women Act programs.

It appeared the scenario would be repeated this year when the House introduced a bill that didn't mention the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and watered down a Senate provision allowing tribal courts to prosecute non-Indians who attack their Indian partners on tribal lands.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., who has spent months working on the issue, defended the Republican plan: “Our goal in strengthening the Violence Against Women Act is simple. We want to help all women who are faced with violent, abusive and dangerous situations. ... We want them to know that those who commit these horrendous crimes will be punished.”

But the House proposal encountered quick and strong opposition from women's groups, the White House, Democrats and some Republicans, and on Tuesday, the GOP leadership agreed to give the House a vote on the Senate bill. It passed

immediately after the House rejected Cantor's bill, 257-166, with 60 Republicans voting against it.

Vice President Joe Biden, who as a senator was instrumental in moving the 1994 act through Congress, praised Cantor for not standing in the Senate bill's way. “He kept his word,” Biden said.

The GOP decision to step aside and let the Senate bill pass came after the party's poor showing among women in last fall's election and Democratic success in framing the debate over the Violence Against Women Act as Republican policy hostile to women. Obama won 55 percent of the women's vote last November. Republican presidential candidates haven't won the women's vote since 1984, when Ronald Reagan held a 12-point lead over Walter Mondale among women.

The anti-violence bill should never have become partisan, said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a sponsor of the Senate bill. “That is why I applaud moderate Republican voices in the House who stood up to their leadership to demand a vote on the Senate bill.”

The Senate passed its bill on a 78-22 vote with every Democrat, every woman senator and 23 of 45 Republicans supporting it.

A turning point in the debate came earlier this month, when 19 Republicans, led by Rep. Jon Runyan, R-N.J., wrote a letter to their leadership urging them to accept a bipartisan plan that would reach all victims of domestic violence. The letter, Runyan said, was a catalyst in showing the leadership “a willingness of people in the House to really compromise” and see that the Senate “has a pretty good bill.”

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., a

Native American, also wrote his Republican colleagues saying he was voting against the House alternative because “it falls short of giving tribes what they need to keep their women safe.”

Indian women suffer incidents of domestic violence at rates more than double national averages, but Indian courts don't have jurisdiction over non-Indians, and federal prosecutors don't take up about half the violence cases on reservations because of lack of resources to pursue crimes on isolated Indian lands. The Senate bill would give Indian courts the ability to prosecute non-Indians for a set of crimes limited to domestic violence and violations of protecting orders. Opponents have said that raises constitutional issues.

“With this authority comes a serious responsibility, and tribal courts will administer justice with the same level of impartiality that any defendant is afforded in state and federal courts,” said Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians.

The Violence Against Women Act is credited with helping reduce domestic violence incidents by two-thirds over the past two decades. The Senate bill would authorize some \$659 million a year over five years to fund current programs that provide grants for transitional housing, legal assistance, law enforcement training and hotlines.

The Senate bill adds stalking to the list of crimes that make immigrants eligible for protection and authorizes programs dealing with sexual assault on college campuses and with efforts to reduce the backlog in rape kit analyses. It reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Filing period for USDA women, Hispanic farmers discrimination suit draws near

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – The filing period is quickly closing on a class action discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

First filed in 2000, Love vs. Vilsack is a class action suit filed on behalf of women and Hispanic farmers and ranchers who were subjected to discrimination while applying for or trying to apply for direct farm loans between 1981 and 2000. Claims must be filed by March 25 in order to be considered to receive part of the \$1.33 billion settlement fund. Up to \$160 million in farm debt relief will also be available for eligible women and Hispanic farmers, and up to \$50,000 for each woman farmer claimant who is successful in establishing that USDA discriminatorily denied her a loan or loan servicing will be provided. In addition, the government's program provides for tax and debt relief.

“This is basically the last round of civil rights claims against the USDA,” attorney Alicia Seyler said. “Any female or Hispanic farmer or rancher should at least consider filing a claim, as claims cover both denied applications and denial of the opportunity to apply for a farm loan.”

Participants in the Cobell and Keepseagle class action lawsuits are eligible to file a claim, but must meet a higher burden of proof in order to receive any settlement funds.

“You need to have proof of the discrimination and some kind of documentation that you made the complaint to a government official who could carry that complaint up through the USDA channels,” Seyler said. “An example would be a witness statement from someone who actually saw the discrimination against you.”

A claim form is available online at www.farmersclaims.gov or by contacting Seyler at 202-276-2634.

Seminole Nation election candidate announcement

Jeff Harjo, current chair of the Seminole Nation's Finance Committee, has announced his candidacy for the office of Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation.

He is currently Band Chief of the Eufaula Band and serves as Secretary of the Seminole Nation Band Chiefs.

A Councilman for more than 10 years, Jeff represents the Eufaula Band on the Seminole Nation General Council.

Harjo pledges his support of churches, elders, and veterans and support of tribal members that live outside Seminole County.

Jeff Harjo asks voters to consider the following: *As tribal members are you satisfied with the direction the administration is taking the tribe? Was purchasing the Grisso Mansion the right thing to do? Do you agree with the recent changes to the Judgement*

Fund? Do you think our tribal money could be spent in a more responsible manner? As tribal members, do you feel left out and ignored? Does the administration communicate to tribal members effectively?

Jeff is currently the Community Coordinator for Administration for the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. Prior to working for the Kickapoo Tribe, Jeff was the Executive Director for the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) for five years. NAJA is a national non-profit organization with members throughout the United States and Canada. Harjo has been a journalist for more than 25 years.

Jeff is a 1972 graduate of Bowlegs High School and a graduate of Northeastern Oklahoma State University with a BA in History. He was a Mass Communications graduate student at OSU.



Jeff Harjo

Jeff just completed two years as the Chairman of the Shawnee Public Schools Indian Education Parent Committee. In 2011, he was appointed to the FCC-Native Nations Broadband Task Force and is currently the Vice-President of the Oklahoma Indian Bikers, a non-profit Christian organization.

Harjo is the son of Wisey Narcomey of Bowlegs and the late Jefferson Harjo of Sasakwa. He is married to Emma Wesley.

Native Times Political Announcement Policy: *The Native Times will publish candidacy announcements as space allows. Announcements must fit into a three column by 5.25" space or less (this is approximately 310 words with a photo) including announcement header. The Native Times will not edit your submission to fit within this guideline. It will be returned to you for editing. Space is not guaranteed. If you wish to purchase guaranteed advertising space, rates and information are posted online for download at www.nativetimes.com under the "About Us" menu tab. You may also email lisa@nativetimes.com or call 918-708-5838 for ad rates. Political advertisements must be paid in full prior to publishing by check, money order or credit card.*

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Claims Filing Deadline: March 25, 2013

For a claims package or for help filing a claim contact

Alicia Seyler, Farm Advocate
918.699.9850 or 202.276.2634
farmadvocate@gmail.com

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For more information on these positions and others that may be open, visit www.sacandfoxnation.com or call 918-968-3526 ext. 1041.

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RFP/BIDS

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The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma is currently accepting bids from contractors for material and labor to remove and replace 700 square feet of tile and 330 yards of carpet for the Tribal Court. Further details will be made available upon request. Interested parties should contact the Court Administrator, Lauren Truitt at (405) 547-2402 or via e-mail at ltruitt@iowantion.org.

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EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY
The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee

Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

MARCH 9
UKB Blowgun Shoot, Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the pavilion on the UKB Celebration Grounds. Men's, women's and youth—13 years old and younger divisions. Info call Choogie Kingfisher at 918-772-4372 or email him at culture@unitedkeetoowahband.org.

The Descendants of Freedmen Association and their supporters meeting at the Rudisill Library, 1520 N Hartford in Tulsa, beginning at 1 pm. Info contact Waynetta Lawrie 918-587-6968, waynetta@sbcglobal.net or Marilyn Vann 405-277-9810, mkvann@hotmail.com

MARCH 15
WILD ONION DINNER at New Hope Indian Church, 910 W. 9th in Dewey, OK, all day from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Adults \$7.00 --- Children \$4:00

MARCH 16
Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

2013-2014 Miss and Mr. Indian OU Pageant, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm, Meacham Auditorium, OU Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK.

Native High School All-Star Game, Shawnee, Okla. Info email michael.logan@potawatomi.org

Wild Onion Dinner at Haikey Chapel UMC, 8805 E 101st St, Tulsa. 11 am till 3 pm. Adults \$7.50 and child's dinners for \$ 3.50. Wild Onions, brown beans, frybread, corn, grape dumplings, sofke, choice of ham or salt meat, a dessert and drink.

MARCH 19
11th Annual Spring Celebration, "Celebrate YOUTH." Sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Youth Coalition. 8:30 am-2:00 pm, Beggs High School Dome, 1201 West 9th St., Beggs, OK. Open to all Native Youth and Families. Free with door prizes and lunch. Special youth art contest and submission deadline is 5:00 pm, February 18. For more information: 918-224-9307.

MARCH 22
2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-

5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 23
Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

All-You-Can-Eat Wild Onion Dinner at Norman First American UMC, 1950 Beaumont Drive, Norman, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adults \$10, Children 10 yrs and under \$5, Students w/ID \$7. Menu: Wild onions, pinto beans, fry bread, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, fried chicken or salt port, dessert, ice tea, lemonade or coffee. For more info, 405.321.5640.

APRIL 6
American Indian Leadership Youth Council Of Broken Bow Public Schools Spring Pow Wow. Contests, Stickball, Gourd Dancing. For more information please contact: Monica Billy (580) 584-3365 ext. 4069 or Katrina Anderson (580) 236-1280

Oklahoma City University Spring Contest Powwow at Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave. on University campus. Drum contest and dance contests. Doors open at noon. Info call Chris Roman Nose 405-208-5750 or CRomannose@okcu.edu

APRIL 13
Rose State College Contest Powwow, RSC Student Center, 6420 S.E. 15; Midwest City, OK (405) 736-0347

Grammy winner brings Wellness Tour to Oklahoma

■ Ten years ago, Star Nayeя began speaking with children in the schools in New Mexico and Arizona about living free of alcohol and drugs and that having good health is essential to a good life. A few years later, she officially dubbed her efforts Spring Into Wellness.

KAREN SHADE
Native American Times

SEATTLE – As winter pushes out to make way for warmer temperatures, spring cleaning rituals abound like wild onion dinners. The timing is perfect for a tour coming to Oklahoma aimed at helping children and youth live better inside and out.

The 7th Annual Spring Into Wellness Tour will be in Oklahoma March 18-30. Founder and presenter Star Nayeя said the goal is to reach as many Native communities as possible with a message of healthful, positive living.

“In New Mexico, we have pretty cold winters. When the spring came, I saw changes in behaviors when they came out of their shelters,” she said.

It seemed that kids anxious to get out of the house after the long “quiet season” of winter would also get into trouble and make wrong decisions, Nayeя said.

Spring Into Wellness began in Santa Fe, N.M., when she lived there and taught music. Now a Seattle resident, Nayeя is a speaker and mentor.



COURTESY
Star Nayeя, a speaker and mentor, is best known as a 2006 Grammy Award winner.

She may be best known as a recording artist with several solo albums to her name. She also was part of the album Sacred Ground: A Tribute to Mother Earth, which won the Grammy Award for Best Native American Music Album in 2006. Sacred Ground, a compilation album, also includes singers Robert Mirabal and Joanne Shenandoah. In 2008, Nayeя was named the Native American Music Award’s Songwriter of the Year. She is of Canada’s First Nations people known as the Anishinabe tribe (commonly referred to as Ojibwe or Chippewa).

Ten years ago, Nayeя began speaking with children in the schools in New Mexico and Arizona about living free of

alcohol and drugs and that having good health is essential to a good life. A few years later, she officially dubbed her efforts Spring Into Wellness. The message is one share by Chance Lee Rush, who will be also tour this month.

Founder of Cloudboy Consulting, L.L.C., Rush is sought out nationally for speaking engagements, workshops, comedy shows and as a life coach among other specialties. The core of his work is about helping Native people reach inside themselves to accomplish great things personally and for the community. It begins with taking care of the self.

Growing up in Pawhuska, Rush (Three Affiliated Tribes-Hidatsa/Dakota/Arapaho/

Otoe/Oneida) is a Tulsa resident.

“I wasn’t the greatest student. I wasn’t the most popular kid. I struggled academically my whole life, and was always told what I could and couldn’t do,” Rush said. “... I was always told how far I could go in life. I knew I could do better than that.”

After earning his degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Rush took the usual routes to support his family, but he always wanted to be a motivator and consultant. Soon he was asked to visit schools, churches and various conferences and communities to promote healthy living and advocate for unity in family and communities.

The Spring Into Wellness Tour is planned for Arizona, New Mexico and Northwest U.S. This year will be the first time the event will be in Oklahoma. With a spring break camp event planned in Pawhuska for March 22-23 (details to be announced), Nayeя and Rush are keeping the rest of the last two weeks of this month open for schools, tribes and organizations interested in having them bring their widely sought message.

Nayeя said many communities find themselves in a cycle of trauma that continues and affects youth. High teen suicide rates, obesity, domestic violence, teen sexual assault, drug abuse and alcoholism are all tied together and part of the historical/generational trauma all Indian communities today face.

Also called “multi-generational trauma,” historical trauma is a term based on shared experiences of

people affected by such events as displacement, cultural suppression and forced assimilation, according to the Native American Center for Excellence at the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, a service of the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). The trauma often leaves behind a sense of powerlessness pervading successive generations that can lead to abusive behavior.

“It’s different for every community,” Nayeя said. “Sometimes kids have diabetes. Sometimes it’s food addiction or suicide because of sexual assault, domestic

said, she did not know who she was. When she left home, she escaped into music. She is still searching for her birth family.

“When we go into these communities and share something they can’t even fathom, it inspires them. It’s meant to make them grateful for the lives they have and for their families,” Nayeя said.

Tribal and cultural connection is important, and so is keeping a strong body and mind to withstand negative pressures to abuse substances, she said.

Rush said youth today are constantly searching for their next move.

“A lot of youth today service their peers, but a lot of these youth are hurt and wandering, too. They’re trying to look for answers themselves, but they can’t slow down and better situate themselves either,” he said.

Wellness, Rush added, is about focusing on what you have – passion, culture, identity, faith and spirituality – and using it to go forward, exercise and be a positive influence for others.

While Spring Into Wellness is in Oklahoma, both speakers hope they will have more opportunities to address young people and ways to make Native communities stronger and better.

To find out more about the health and wellness tour and scheduling, call (425) 374-3738 or (360) 348-3731. Nayeя can also be reached at the email address ravenslastlaugh@gmail.com. For more about Chance Lee Rush, visit www.chancerush.com or call (405) 202-7874.



COURTESY
Chance Lee Rush grew up in Pawhuska and now lives in Tulsa.

violence. They (children and youth) feel neglected. There’s spiritual abuse, too.”

Nayeя shares her own story with her young audiences. She was adopted as a baby away from her tribe to live with a non-Native family in the U.S. during a period in which many infants and children were removed from their homes and adopted away from the culture. There, she experienced abuse and neglect. Worse, she



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- Inside this issue:**
- **CBS show under fire for ‘drunk Indians’ joke**
 - **Kiowa citizen recalls Iran Hostage Crisis**
 - **Mother, daughter reunited after 55 years**



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VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 10

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MANUEL BALCE CENETA | ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama greets Our Sister's Keeper Executive Director Diane Milich, from left, and Tulalip Tribes of Washington State Vice Chairwoman Deborah Parker, after signing the Violence Against Women Act on March 7 at the Interior Department in Washington, D.C.

Law gives tribes new authority over non-Indians

■ Proponents say it's a huge step forward in the face of high rates of domestic violence with no prosecution.

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – American Indian tribes have tried everything from banishment to charging criminal acts as civil offenses to deal with non-Indians who commit crimes on reservations. Ever since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1978 that tribal courts lack criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians, tribes have had to

get creative in trying to hold that population accountable. They acknowledge, though, that those approaches aren't much of a deterrent, and say most crimes committed by non-Indians on tribal land go unpunished. Tribal leaders are hoping that will change, at least in part, with a federal bill signed into law Thursday. The measure gives tribes the authority to prosecute non-Indians for a set of crimes limited to domestic violence and violations of protecting orders. Implementation of the Violence Against Women Act will take time as tribes amend

See **LAW** Continued on Page 4

President signs VAWA into law

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – As of March 7, the Violence Against Women Act is once again law. Introduced by Southern Ute domestic violence survivor Diane Milich, President Barack Obama signed a reauthorization of VAWA that will provide a limited expansion of tribal jurisdiction by allowing tribal courts to prosecute non-Natives accused of domestic violence

or date-related violence against Native women on Indian land rather than passing those cases on to federal officials. That jurisdiction would not extend to crimes committed on non-tribal land or to crimes outside VAWA's scope, such as robbery or identity theft. "Indian Country has some of the highest rates of domestic abuse in America," Obama said at the signing ceremony in the offices of the Department of the Interior. "And one of the reasons is that when Native American women are abused

on tribal lands by an attacker who is not Native American, the attacker is immune from prosecution by tribal courts. Well, as soon as I sign this bill, that ends." First passed in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act is credited with reducing domestic violence rates by two-thirds nationwide. It also authorizes \$660 million annually through 2018 for grants to programs that provide transitional housing, legal assistance, law

See **VAWA** Continued on Page 2



SUSAN WALSH | ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama signs the Violence Against Women Act on March 7 at the Interior Department in Washington, D.C. Participants, from left are, Diane Milich, a citizen of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Colorado and domestic abuse survivor; Deborah Parker, vice chairwoman of the Tulalip Tribes of Washington State; Vice President Joe Biden; Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Tysheena Rhames, a trafficking survivor and advocate; House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif.; Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho; and Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

Assistant Secretary: 'I don't want to take sides'

■ Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn says he didn't take the job to be a referee

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

NORMAN, Okla. – For Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, the last six months have been a whirlwind reality check. "We have 566 federally-recognized tribes," he said. "When I came in, I thought each one would only have one problem that they'd bring to my office. Instead each one has at least three or four. "It's a hard job. I've basically taken on almost all of the United States' problems over the last 200 years." Sworn in on Oct. 12, 2012, Washburn's appearance at the University of Oklahoma Law School's annual American



Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn addresses attendees of the University of Oklahoma's American Indian Law Symposium March 7 in Norman.

Indian Law Symposium marked his first public speaking engagement since taking office. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and the former dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, he is an OU graduate. Speaking to about 300 people at the OU College of Law, Washburn talked about how his childhood experiences at Carl Albert Indian Hospital

shaped his views on tribal jurisdiction. Originally opened as an Indian Health Services-operated facility, the Ada, Okla., hospital is now operated by the Chickasaw Nation. As one of three children, his single mother would bring all three children with her if one needed to be seen. The trips often turned into all-day affairs thanks to delays and staffing issues at the hospital. However, after the Chickasaw Nation took over operations, he and his family noticed many small improvements across the board. "Those little things, like a phone call when they're running behind, made a big difference," he said. "Those phone calls were a sign of respect that our time, my relatives' time was also valuable. "If you put the tools in the hands of tribes, they'll generally do better than the

See **WASHBURN** Continued on Page 4

Law change brings disaster declaration for tribes

SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Barack Obama issued a disaster declaration for the Navajo Nation last week, making it the second American Indian tribe to receive such a declaration after a law change in January. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina was the first federally recognized tribe to get a disaster declaration after an alteration to the Stafford

Act, sought for several years by Native Americans. The change gives tribes the option of requesting disaster declarations directly from the president, rather than applying to a state that then makes the request. The revision was included in the \$50.5 billion emergency assistance package for Superstorm Sandy victims. Some tribes complained that their recovery needs sometimes are not given priority and that going through state governments fails to recognize their status as sovereign nations. Obama signed the Sandy aid bill into law Jan. 29. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians got its declaration March 1. During a Dec. 15 through Jan. 21 freeze in Arizona, temperatures dipped to the mid-20s at night. Water lines froze, and more than 10,000 people in different communities of the Navajo Nation were without water

See **CHANGE** Continued on Page 5

Plan guides protection of tribal sacred sites

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – Four federal agencies and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation have come up with a plan for improving the protection of sites held sacred by American Indians and Alaska Natives. The plan announced Tuesday stems from a memorandum of

understanding signed in December by the council and the departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy and Interior. They all agreed to work together over the next five years to protect sacred sites as well as improve access for tribal members to sites that are on federal land. Interior Secretary Ken

Salazar says the new plan will help guide the agencies, which have a responsibility to respect and foster tribal heritage. Salazar also says his department plans to put together a report on several listening sessions on sacred sites that were held last year.



IMAGE COURTESY CBS WEBSITE
Bill Gardell, who plays Mike Biggs, and Melissa McCarthy, who plays Molly Flynn, act out a scene from the CBS sitcom “Mike & Molly.” The show has recently taken heat after a character in the show used a stereotypical comment about Native Americans.

TV character cracks ‘drunk Indian’ joke, network declines comment

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – Arizona tribal members say they’re shocked by a television sitcom that made fun of one of the most pervasive social ills on American Indian reservations – alcoholism.

One of the characters on the CBS show “Mike & Molly” joked about drunken Indians in Arizona, a state that is home to 21 federally recognized American Indian tribes. Although drinking and selling alcohol largely is banned on reservations, it can easily be found in border towns, brought in by bootleggers or sneaked past authorities.

No one disputes that public intoxication is a problem on and off the reservations, but tribal members say alcoholism often is linked to poverty, hopelessness and a history of trauma within American Indian families that is hard to overcome. American Indians and Alaska Natives die at a

higher rate from alcoholism than other Americans, according to federal data, and authorities say alcohol fuels a majority of violent crimes on reservations.

“You can see somebody who is drunk and tripping over themselves and it’s easy to make fun of them,” said Erny Zah, a spokesman for the Navajo Nation, which extends into Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. “But the disease itself isn’t funny, the coming home late at night, possibly beating on family members, the absence of family members, the fear it instills in a lot of children.”

The Native American Journalists Association called on CBS to apologize, saying it’s inexplicable for a highly entertaining show to resort to humor at the expense of Arizona tribes. The group urged screenwriters to think twice about what might offend minority groups and to work to overcome stereotypes.

“I think a lot of times

people make excuses for when they do those type of jokes or sarcasm,” said NAJA President Rhonda LeValdo, who is from Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico. “To me, it’s not funny making fun of a minority group. Are we supposed to be the entertainment for mainstream?”

The joke about American Indians in Arizona was brief and made by Mike’s mother on the show, played by Rondi Reed. The show that airs on Mondays debuted in September 2010, starring Billy Gardell and Melissa McCarthy as a couple who found love at an Overeaters Anonymous meeting.

CBS spokesman Chris Ender declined to comment.

Not all viewers were offended by the joke, with some posting on the show’s Facebook page that anyone who didn’t like it can tune out.

Racheal Povatah, a member of the Hopi tribe in northern Arizona, didn’t watch the

episode that included the joke but heard about it and was offended. Despite a strong cultural and traditional background, she said tribal members turn to alcohol, drugs and self-destructive behavior to mask the pain of trauma they have suffered.

“Sometimes it’s a decision it doesn’t seem like we can make on our own, it’s just there,” she said. “There’s so much that goes along with it.”

Zah said an apology won’t fix the negative perception of American Indians that the show perpetuated, and joking about alcoholism disregards the progress tribes have made or their contributions to address alcoholism.

“I would hope the rest of the country would be educated enough to understand we are more than what that comment made us out to be,” he said. “We have educated people who are in the highest parts of the government, science, everywhere within this country.”

VAWA

Continued from Page 1

enforcement training and hotline services.

According to the Indian Law Resource Center, non-Natives are responsible for 88 percent of all crimes committed against Native women. Figures from a 2010 Government Accountability Office report showed that federal prosecutors declined to pursue two-thirds of sexual abuse cases from Indian Country between 2005 and 2009.

“There is a lot of protection for the victims, which is good, but not necessarily for the accused,” Crow Nation associate judge Sheila Dell Not Afraid said. “This is something our leaders will have to address. It’s good that our victims are getting the assistance and protection they need, but our leaders will need to be proactive and be sure to cover all of their bases when looking at the issues related to these cases.”

Under the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, tribal courts are required to afford due process and other civil liberties to defendants. However, out of respect to tribes’ political and cultural status, that law does not guarantee all the rights found in non-tribal courts, including the right to appointed council in criminal cases and the right to a jury trial in civil cases.

“VAWA is going to create some new expenses and cause some new questions in Indian Country,” Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said. “For example, the juries that hear these cases. Similar to the Sixth Amendment (right to an impartial jury), it can’t be an all-Indian one.”

The new VAWA includes provisions drafted by the Department of Justice that requires impartial jury trials with jurors representing a cross-section of the community the crime was committed in and the area in which the tribal court has jurisdiction. The new law prohibits tribes from systematically excluding non-Natives from the jury box.

The new provisions will take effect in 2015. A pilot project is available for tribes who believe it can meet the requirements earlier than that, but US Attorney Sanford Coates said Thursday that few tribes have signed up so far.

“If the offense rises to a felony, it can be referred to our office,” he said. “Tribal police, the BIA or another entity could investigate if a tribal court chooses to exercise jurisdiction. We’re like the District Attorney’s office for Indian Country.”

Although the reauthorization’s impact will not be felt right away, many women across Indian Country still celebrated the signature Thursday as a step towards a safer future.

“Our future isn’t certain if we do not support our Native women,” Choctaw Nation citizen Tabatha Harris said. “Now it’s time to educate our tribal leaders and tribal law enforcement and remind them that Native women are the source of the future. Hopefully Native women will feel safe on our land one day.”

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Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma

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White Eagle Cultural Center

Ponca City, OK

MARCH 23, 2013

Master of Ceremonies: Lester Eagle (Ponca)

Head Singer: Robert Collins (Ponca)

Headman Hethuska & Head Gourd Dancer: Lance Carney (Ponca)

Head Girl Dancer: Brooke Stoner (Tonkawa/Ponca)

Arena Director: Charles Warrior (Tonkawa/Ponca)

Honored Elder: Douglas Eagle (Ponca)

Water Carrier: Patrick Warrior (Tonkawa/Ponca)

Special Guest:
Riverside Indian School Apache Fire Dancer - Anadarko, OK

HETHUSKA DANCING • 2:00 p.m.

SUPPERBREAK • 5:30 p.m.

GOURD DANCING • 7:00 p.m.

Approximately 25 children will dance for the first time. The MSPI Program Director and Staff have provided the children’s clothes and moccasins. All parents and relatives are encouraged to come support this cultural event.

Giveaway time will be honored for anyone requesting it. Please check with the Master of Ceremonies. Come support the Youth Cultural Event of the MSPI program. Bring your own chairs, dishes, bowls, etc.

For more information please contact: Cynthia Vetter (580) 304-5628

NSU to host Indian symposium in April

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Northeastern State University and its Center for Tribal Studies are inviting people to the 41st annual Symposium on the American Indian on April 10-13 at its Tahlequah campus.

This year’s theme is “Technology Future, Technology Past: A Woven Link.”

“Indigenous societies have endured as technological innovations have effected massive cultural change. The spiritual paths taken are interwoven as living links between the past and the future,” the event’s website states. “As we enter the environment of cloud technologies, the rapid acceleration of computer engineering is in some ways leading us into a complex realm of little understood ecosystems through which we must, sometimes blindly, navigate. In the Native universe, we must carefully consider our trust relationship with technology.”

Confirmed keynote speakers are Charles “Chief” Boyd, Dr. Daniel Littlefield Jr., Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Bunky Echo-Hawk, Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald and Dr. Pamela Munro.

Boyd has been an architect with Thalden Boyd Emery Architects since 1978 and is a graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder. He has experience with American Indian projects beginning in 1963 with the Cherokee Heritage Center, and his keynote symposium

address will observe its 50th anniversary. He has worked with 45 tribes across the country and is a renowned Native American architect. Since 1964, he has been the official architect to the Cherokee National Historical Society and serves on its board. He is the architect of the CHC’s Ancient Village addition.

Littlefield is a history scholar and director of the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, home to the American Native Press Archives, which he co-founded in 1983. The ANPA contains newspaper and periodical publications from more than 2,100 titles by American Indian nations, individuals and organizations. It also contains American Indian manuscripts, scholarly works and records and biographical information on about 4,500 Native American writers.

Wildcat is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., with published works on indigenous knowledge, technology, environment and education. He is also co-director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, which he founded with colleagues from the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at Kansas State University. A Yuchi citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Wildcat is co-author of “Power and Place: Indian Education in America” and co-editor

of “Destroying Dogma: Vine Deloria Jr., and His Influence on American Society.”

Echo-Hawk is a multifaceted creator of art whose work spans media, lifestyle and pop culture. A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, he is an artist, graphic designer, photographer, writer and a nonprofit professional. He is also a Pawnee/Yakama singer and dancer.

Munro is a professor of linguistics at the University of California-Los Angeles specializing in American Indian languages. She helped create the dictionaries for the San Lucas Quiavini Zapotec, Chickasaw and Wolof tribes.

Leading the annual Indigenous Language Documentation and Revitalization Seminar, co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Native Language Association, is Fitzgerald from the University of Texas-Arlington and Dr. Brad Montgomery-Anderson of the NSU College of Liberal Arts. Fitzgerald and Montgomery-Anderson will conduct the seminar from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 11 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 12 in the University Center Morgan Room.

Participation is free and open to Native language practitioners, speakers, students and others interested in language revitalization. The seminar is supported by an Oklahoma Humanities Council grant and is

open to the public.

Other scheduled presenters are Becky Chandler and Karissa Pickett of Chickasaw Nation Communications and Creative Services, as well as Tom Mooney, Mickel Yantz and Tonia Hogner of the CHC. Luncheon speakers are Chris Samples of Redstone Construction and Cherokee Nation storyteller Robert Lewis.

A pre-symposium film series is set for April 8-9 with the symposium schedule running April 10-13.

The annual powwow is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on April 12 and 2 p.m. to midnight on April 13 in the University Center Ballroom. The Friday schedule includes gourd dancing at 6 p.m. and the grand entry at 8 p.m. Saturday opens with gourd dancing, the powwow dinner at 5 p.m. and the grand entry at 7 p.m. All activities are free and open to the public.

The Center for Tribal Studies and the American Indian Heritage Committee organized this year’s symposium. In collaboration with the CHC, this year’s event will highlight the CNHS’ 50th anniversary.

For more information, call the Center for Tribal Studies at 918-444-4350. Vendor, sponsor and agenda information is available at www.nsuok.edu/symposium.

WASHBURN

Continued from Page 1

federal government.

“Even with less money, tribal employees can do more than most federal employees, as they’re more accountable to the local community.”

With the BIA employment numbers down almost 50 percent compared to the Clinton administration, that emphasis on self-governance extends to his office’s role as a mediator between tribes, with the BIA only becoming involved when absolutely necessary.

“I didn’t take this job because I wanted to be a referee,” Washburn said. “Watching two tribes fight is like watching my kids fight. I don’t want to take sides. I want them to work it out on their own.”

Among those proverbial children fighting are the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, who have been facing a constitutional crisis for more than two years with two separate governments claiming to be the legitimate authority. The fight has led a Custer County, Okla., judge to freeze the tribes’ bank accounts until a clear, undisputed leader is named. Both governments have written requests on file for the Department of Interior to conduct the tribes’ election scheduled for later this year.

Several members of one of the two governments, including its leader, Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, attended the symposium to draw attention to their tribes’ situation and attempt to get confirmation that the Department of Interior will step in and help diffuse the situation. However, Washburn would not commit to federal involvement in Concho, Okla., and only promised that his office would at least review the situation.

“The No. 1 place for tribes to solve their problems is at home,” he said. “It doesn’t help for me to get involved in a tribe’s internal war.

“This is one of the harder issues, but looking to the federal government for a rescue is simply not consistent with self-government. I grew up in an era when the BIA was known for bossing Indians around. I’m not interested in bossing other Indians around.”

Washburn also said his office would not be intervening in the dispute between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, headquartered in Atmore, Ala., over a casino expansion project that could potentially desecrate Hickory Ground, a pre-removal burial ground, capitol and sacred site.

Despite the excavation of 57 sets of human remains, Poarch Band officials maintain that the \$246 million casino expansion project does not violate any potentially applicable federal laws, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The land, which has been held in trust since 1984, is part of the Alabama tribe’s reservation and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

At a November emergency meeting of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Principal Chief George Tiger said Washburn had committed to trying to facilitate a meeting between the two tribes in early 2013. However, with a federal lawsuit now pending in the Middle District of Alabama, the assistant secretary said that offer is now off of the table.

“It’s now in the court’s hands,” he said. “It is completely out of my hands. I’ll be watching the litigation like everyone else at this point.”

Opening arguments have not been scheduled yet in the civil suit. A video from the Feb. 15 arrest of four protestors at the site was released Wednesday via Vimeo in an effort to refute the Alabama tribe’s claims that one of the protestors, Wayland Gray, made terrorist threats against the casino and its management.

LAW

Continued from Page 1

their legal codes and ensure defendants receive the same rights offered in state and federal courts. But proponents say it’s a huge step forward in the face of high rates of domestic violence with no prosecution.

“For a tribal nation, it’s just absurd that (authority) doesn’t exist,” said Sheri Freemont, director of the Family Advocacy Center on the Salt River Pima Maricopa reservation in Arizona. “People choose to either work, live or play in Indian Country. I think they should be subject to Indian Country rules.”

Native American women suffer incidents of domestic violence at rates more than double national averages. But more than half of cases involving non-Indians go unprosecuted because Indian courts have lacked jurisdiction and because federal prosecutors often have too few resources to try cases on isolated reservations.

Still, the tribal courts provision was a major point of contention in Congress, with some Republicans arguing that subjecting non-Indians to Indian courts was unconstitutional.

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., said after its passage that the bill denies basic protections and will

be tied up in court challenges for years.

“It violates constitutional rights of individuals and would, for the first time ever, proclaim Indian tribes’ ‘inherent’ authority to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian citizens,” Hastings said in a statement. “The Supreme Court has ruled multiple times that tribes do not have this authority.”

The U.S. Department of Justice met with tribal leaders March 6 to discuss implementing the provisions, which will take effect two years after the law is enacted. A pilot project would allow any tribe that believes it has met the requirements to request an earlier start date.

To ease concerns that the new authority would violate the constitutional rights of a non-Indian or that jurors in tribal court would be unfair, the bill allows defendants to petition a federal court for review. A tribe would have jurisdiction over non-Indians when that person lives or works on the reservation, and is married to or in a partnership with a tribal member.

About 77 percent of people living in American Indian and Alaska Native areas are non-Indian, according to a recent Census report. Roughly half of Native American women are married to non-Indians, the Justice Department has said.

Although tribes have civil jurisdiction over non-Indians, they often are reluctant to go forward with a case when the penalty amounts to a fine and offenders have little incentive to pay it. The hope in taking on criminal cases is that incidents of domestic violence will be quelled before they lead to serious injury or death, and that victims won’t be afraid to report them.

“Having the ability to do it local and have the prosecution start soon after the offense, that’s just going to be great for our victims,” said Fred Urbina, chief prosecutor for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in southern Arizona.

Officers there are certified under state and federal law, which allows them to arrest non-Indians, but the cases aren’t handled at the tribal level. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe also has banished some non-Indians from the reservation for criminal activity.

“It’s almost like a patchwork of things we’ve been able to employ to fix that jurisdictional void,” Urbina said. “It’s not satisfactory in all cases.”

Under the new law, a non-Indian defendant would have the right to a jury trial that is drawn from a cross-section of the community and doesn’t systematically exclude non-Indians or other distinctive groups. The protections would equal those in state or federal court, including the right to a

public defender, a judge who is licensed to practice law, a recording of the proceedings and published laws and rules of criminal procedure.

“This is not scary. It’s not radical,” said Troy Eid, former U.S. attorney in Colorado. “It’s very much in keeping with what we have as local governments.”

The safeguards are similar to those in the federal Tribal Law and Order Act, passed in 2010 to improve public safety on tribal lands.

About 30 tribes across the country are working toward a provision that allows them to increase sentencing from one year to three years, leaving them well-positioned to take authority over non-Indians in criminal matters, Eid said.

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians, said in a statement that much work remains to be done to ensure tribal members are protected from domestic violence. But he said Thursday’s bill signing represents a “historic moment in the nation-to-nation relationships” between tribes and the federal government.

“Today is a great day, because it marks the beginning of justice and the end to injustice that has gone unanswered for too long,” Keel said.

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COMMENTARY

‘Argo’ movie may have taken some liberties, but brought attention to the Iran Hostage Crisis

Guest Column
RICK KUPKE
Kiowa Tribal Citizen

I was happy to see that the movie “ARGO” won Best Picture at the Academy Awards. Although my part in the movie was very small, I have bragging rights for being in the Best Picture of 2012.

Unfortunately, those rights came at the price of spending 444 days as a hostage in Iran under some pretty horrible conditions. I was always proud of my Kiowa Indian heritage, and it remained my goal to conduct myself in a manner that would reflect favorably on the Kiowa people.

This movie by Ben Affleck was enjoyable and very suspenseful to watch. It was one of the best movies that I have ever seen. I do believe certain hollywood liberties were taken in its production. However, the basic story was based upon real events. I cannot vouch

for all the actions of my fellow six colleagues in the movie who made it to the Canadian Embassy. At that time, I was tied up and guarded by surly Iranians who told me they were going to put me on trial and then execute me. I had my own set of problems.

What the movie has done, however, is brought attention to the whole story of the Iran Hostage Crisis. A movement is in progress in Congress to provide us former hostages with compensation based upon fines against Iran. A number of recent news stories have appeared on CNN, ABC, and CBS concerning the 52 of us who were held for the entire 444 days. I was on Fox News Radio on 02/26/13 reliving some of the most difficult times of my captivity. I don't believe the American public is aware of the conditions we were held under.

One of my fellow hostages killed himself a couple months ago. In many respects, he

never really came home from Iran after our release. Alcohol was a problem and assimilating back into society just never happened. He was a good man and I miss him. This is the real story of the Iran Hostage Crisis, not a scene from a movie.

Other hostages were beaten with rubber hoses. Some were placed in solitary confinement and under went interrogations lasting up to 12 hours. I and two other hostages underwent Russian Roulette on several occasions. My experience of being told my eyes were going to be cut out was a frightening event. A large Iranian “thug” sat on my chest as I was held to the floor by four other Iranians. The thug held the knife against the soft tissue under my eye and told me to answer his questions carefully as he was going to cut out both of my eyes if my answers were not to his liking. I would like to say that I was brave; however my courage did falter

a bit. I could tell a number of other stories that would be just as horrifying. These events remain with us and our families day in and day out. Even compensation would not entirely clear the slate.

I am a firm believer that Iran must be accountable for their actions against Americans who represented the U.S. President in Teheran, Iran in 1979. That was our U.S. Embassy in Teheran. It belonged to you, me and all of the American people. It did not belong to a bunch of uncontrolled thugs supported by the local government. We were the President's representatives in that country. For all the abuse we suffered and memories that still plague us, It is not to late for compensation and justice for the American hostages.

Rick Kupke, a citizen of the Kiowa Tribe, was one of the 54 American diplomats held hostage during the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis. He



COURTESY KIOWA NEWSLETTER
The Kiowa Tribe honored Rick Kupke at the tribal Veteran's Day Powwow at the Kiowa Complex in Carnegie Okla. with a plaque and blanket.

was the Communications and Electronics Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Iran. Kupke submitted this story to the Kiowa Newsletter after

the Academy Awards were announced last month and it was shared with the Native Times courtesy of the Kiowa Newsletter.

SHS Indians, Anadarko Lady Warriors make state basketball semi-finals

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – The six predominantly Native teams in the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association's state basketball tournaments failed to bring home any hardware from last week's games.

Representing four schools across four different classifications, only two squads – the Class 3A Sequoyah Indians and defending 4A champion Anadarko Lady Warriors – made it to the semifinals.

After rallying to defeat Sperry High School in Thursday's quarterfinal game, Sequoyah (20-9) lost Friday to eventual Class 3A runner-up Okemah, 55-35.

Despite 12 points from Oklahoma State University signee Lakota Beatty, the Anadarko Lady Warriors (27-2) lost Friday night to eventual Class 4A runner-up Oklahoma City Mount St. Mary's, 51-39.

One of eight schools to send both boys

and girls teams to the state tournament, the Sequoyah Lady Indians lost Thursday to then-unbeaten Adair, one of three Class 3A girls teams to enter the state tournament undefeated. The Lady Indians shot 26.9 percent from the field in the 61-39 loss.

In Class 5A, the Tahlequah Lady Tigers (15-10) lost Thursday to Midwest City Carl Albert, 44-37.

Last year's Class 4A runners-up, the Anadarko Warriors lost to Tulsa McLain, 40-38, after the Titans' Bishop Louie hit a running shot with 10 seconds left and the Warriors' three-point shot at the buzzer clanged off the rim.

The Class 2A No. 2 Ketchum Warriors also lost on a last-second basket. Their first defeat of the season, a late 12-foot jump shot from Chouteau's Jason Couch sealed the Wildcats' 53-52 upset win. Ketchum's school district straddles parts of three counties in northeastern Oklahoma near Grand Lake and is more than 60 percent Native American.

CHANGE

Continued from Page 1

for weeks, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said in a news release.

Repairing the water lines and system cost about \$5.2 million, the release states. “I thank President Obama for making federal aid available to the Navajo Nation,” Shelly said.

The White House said the declaration makes federal funding available to the two tribes and certain nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis.

For the Navajo Nation, the money is available for emergency work and repair or replacement of damaged facilities and for “hazard mitigation.”

The Eastern Cherokee

Band will have funding to fix or replace facilities damaged by severe storms there earlier this year. Several days of heavy rain and storms in mid-January led to flooding and caused a landslide that took out a section of US 441, a major road between the Great Smokey Mountains National Park in Gatlinburg, Tenn., to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' reservation in Cherokee, N.C.

The tribe's chief, Michell Hicks, said the storms caused an estimated \$10 million in damage, with about \$3 million of that to reservation property and land.

“That's significant for us,” Hicks said.

Craig Fugate, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, discussed the disaster declarations for tribes Tuesday at a legislative summit sponsored by

the National Congress of American Indians in Washington.

He said rules still must be written on the process for providing assistance to tribes. He has asked the president to submit declarations under the provisions of a pilot program “so we would not wait until rules are written to being processing requests from tribes.”

The rules will need to be able to assist tribes when disaster strikes, ensure additional response aid is available and recognize tribes' diversity. Writing the rules is likely to take four to five years, Fugate said.

“But we're not waiting four or five years to implement the legislation,” he said.

— Associated Press writer Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Ariz., contributed to this report.

ATTENTION

WOMEN AND HISPANIC FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The United States Government is establishing a Claims Process to make available up to \$1.33 billion or more to farmers who alleged discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on being female, or based on being Hispanic, in making or servicing farm loans during certain periods between 1981 and 2000. If you qualify and submit a timely claim, you could receive an award of up to \$50,000 or up to \$250,000 in cash, depending on the evidence that you submit. USDA will also provide a total of up to \$160 million in debt relief to successful Claimants who currently owe USDA money for eligible farm debt.

Claims Filing Deadline: March 25, 2013

For a claims package or for help filing a claim contact

Alicia Seyler, Farm Advocate
918.699.9850 or 202.276.2634
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Cherokee Nation
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Tahlequah, OK 74465
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The Sac and Fox Nation, located in Stroud, Okla. is seeking to fill the following:

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Surveillance Observer (s) #2012-25

Compliance Officer #2012-22

All positions are open until filled.

For more information on these positions and others that may be open, visit www.sacandfoxnation.com or call 918-968-3526 ext. 1041.

Applicants must successfully pass an OSBI/National background check and Drug Screen. Preference in hiring is given to qualified Native Americans. Applicants claiming Indian Preference must provide a copy of their CDIB. Submit applications to Sac and Fox Nation, 920883 S. Hwy 99 Bldg A, Stroud, Oklahoma 74079.

The Chickasaw Nation is accepting applications for the following:

***Behavioral Health Clinician**
(Ada, OK); (Job ID:24194)

***SUG Conductor**
(Oklahoma City, OK); (Job ID: 23995)

***Assistant Project Manager**
(Oklahoma City, OK); (Job ID: 24074)

For a description of the Chickasaw Nation, or to complete an application and view detailed information, please refer to <http://www.chickasaw.net> If you would like additional information, you may contact: 580.436.7259, or PO Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821. American Indian Preference.





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PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for the position of Public Defender. For a complete job description; please visit the Pawnee Nation website at www.pawneenation.org. To apply, submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Linda Jestes, Secretary, Pawnee Nation Business Council, PO Box 470, Pawnee, OK 74058. Applications may also be e-mailed to vwills@pawneenation.org. The deadline to apply is 5 pm on Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

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EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

THIRD THURSDAY
The Veterans' Administration is partnering with the Pawnee Indian Health Center to enroll all Veterans for health care benefits the third Thursday of every month from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Pawnee

Nation Tribal Reserve, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Okla. Information call (918) 762-6724.

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

MARCH 15
WILD ONION DINNER at New Hope Indian Church, 910 W. 9th in Dewey, OK, all day from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Adults \$7.00 --- Children \$4:00

MARCH 16
Honor Dance for 2012 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Okla. City at Shawnee Expo Center, Shawnee. Contests, raffles, cake drawings. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

2013-2014 Miss and Mr. Indian OU Pageant, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm, Meacham Auditorium, OU Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK.

Native High School All-Star Game, Shawnee, Okla. Info email michael.logan@potawatomi.org

Wild Onion Dinner at Haikey Chapel UMC, 8805 E 101st St,

Tulsa. 11 am till 3 pm. Adults \$7.50 and child's dinners for \$ 3.50. Wild Onions, brown beans, frybread, corn, grape dumplings, sofke, choice of ham or salt meat, a dessert and drink.

MARCH 19
11th Annual Spring Celebration, "Celebrate YOUth." Sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Youth Coalition. 8:30 am-2:00 pm, Beggs High School Dome, 1201 West 9th St., Beggs, OK. Open to all Native Youth and Families. Free with door prizes and lunch. Special youth art contest and submission deadline is 5:00 pm, February 18. For more information: 918-224-9307.

MARCH 22
2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

Idle No More Rally for Worldwide Water Day, 11 am-1pm at Oklahoma State Capitol South Plaza. All drummers, singers, allies and friends concerned about the environment invited. More info email spiritwomenrawk@yahoo.com

MARCH 23
Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

All-You-Can-Eat Wild Onion Dinner at Norman First American UMC, 1950 Beaumont Drive, Norman, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adults \$10, Children 10 yrs and under \$5, Students w/ID \$7. Menu: Wild onions, pinto beans, fry bread, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, fried chicken or salt port, dessert, ice tea, lemonade or coffee. For more info, 405.321.5640.

APRIL 6
American Indian Leadership Youth Council Of Broken Bow Public Schools Spring Pow Wow. Contests, Stickball, Gourd Dancing. For more information please contact: Monica Billy (580) 584-3365 ext. 4069 or Katrina Anderson (580) 236-1280

Oklahoma City University Spring Contest Powwow at Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave. on University campus. Drum contest and dance contests. Doors open at noon. Info call Chris Roman Nose 405-208-5750 or CRomannose@okcu.edu

APRIL 13
Rose State College Contest Powwow, RSC Student Center, 6420 S.E. 15; Midwest City, OK (405) 736-0347 aneitzel@rose.edu Free and open to the public.

APRIL 17-21
The Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, a traveling three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be on display at the Sequoyah High School Football Field, 17091 South Muskogee

Mother, daughter find each other after 55 years

DANA ATTOCKNIE
Native Times

ADA, Okla. – It’s the embrace she waited years for.

Vina Lorene Scott, 68, is finally able to hold on to the baby girl she hadn’t seen in years. The only word she can speak is “hello” before all her emotions gush from her eyes.

“When I walked in and I saw her standing there I knew it was her ... I just burst into tears,” Scott, Chickasaw and Choctaw, said. “I will always remember that day. I feel like she really wasn’t lost. In a way she was. To see her again and I didn’t think I ever would. It was a wonderful thing. In a way I wasn’t worthy of so many things ... I feel like it’s a wonderful blessing.”

When Scott was 13 she became pregnant and had to give up her baby for adoption. Times were different then and the Department of Human Services took over. Scott was sent to several foster homes before she landed at Sequoyah Vocational School with other unwed mothers.

“I felt like it was such a sad time,” Scott said. “It was a sad time I believe for all the girls that were there.”

That sadness, loss and worry stayed with Scott until Dec. 29, 2012, when she and her oldest daughter were reunited.

“I’m 54 years old and I’m just now finding my mom,” Debbie Unap said. “I just started crying ... and we just had a big family hug.”

Unap and her family drove to Ada from Skiatook to meet Scott and the rest of her biological family that Saturday after Christmas. Their gathering was in part due to a helping hand from above. Scott has five children: Debbie, Gayla, Monica, Sonya and Jason. Her daughter Gayla Scott died Dec. 4, 2011, and it was her obituary that led Unap to her birth family.

One of Unap’s daughter-in-laws, Regan, wanted to make one of Unap’s wishes come true by finding her birth family. She Googled Scott’s name on Dec. 12, 2012 and came across Gayla’s

obituary. Scott’s daughter Sonya had her telephone number listed with the obituary and Regan wasted no time calling it.

“Is this Sonya Frazier? Do you know you have another sister?” Sonya Scott Frazier said she heard on the other end of the line. She began to tell Regan what she knew about

“It was a great experience ... we got to meet her and her boys,” Jason said. “I was very nervous ... We have pictures and I still look at the pictures now and again.”

Scott always wondered about her daughter and hoped someone good was taking care of her. She said her children grew up knowing they had

help of the spirit of another sister, my mother has the strength to share that part of her life with her children and grandchildren,” Frazier said. “She would also like to share her story with other Native women with similar life experiences to not give up hope and to continue to follow your heart and dreams to reconnect with your lost child.”

Scott said being sent to Sequoyah was, “sort of like a punishment ... but all in all that’s what saved me.”

“I didn’t know what would’ve happened to me. I believe that’s what saved me. There were people there that I felt cared for me; help to steer me in the right path,” she said.

As Scott reflected on her youth, she called herself an “ignorant young girl.” “I really didn’t have any boundaries. No parental guidance. That was, I believe, the worst of it,”

Scott said. “I thought about me and Debbie’s biological father. We were like the latch key kids ... didn’t have the parental guidance that I feel our children need so much.”

Scott wants parents to keep close to their sons and their daughters and know where they are. She likes to hear her grandkids say where they’re going and thinks it’s important to meet their friends and their friends’ parents.

“In reality that’s how we stay close to our children,” she said. “I’m really thankful for all these children that we have.”

Unap said she grew up knowing she was adopted and was told her biological mother didn’t want to give her up. Her adoptive parents told her she was “chosen by God for

them,” and they made a special trip to Oklahoma City to get her. She said they were good parents to her.

“I was with a nurse in a hotel room,” Unap said. “I smiled at them and they took me home.”

Unap was 3 months old and 14 lbs. when she was adopted. Her adoptive mom began looking for Scott when Unap was in the first grade and the school superintendent needed a tribal roll number for Unap. The search was unsuccessful and when Unap turned 18 she sought out a judge’s court order to get her original birth certificate. That’s when she found out her birth mom’s name. She also found out she was born with the name of Elizabeth Grace Cole.

Scott was worried Unap might be upset with her for giving her up all those years ago. Unap said she understands it was taboo back then to have a child and not be married.

“I don’t hold any grudges,” Unap said she told Scott. “I’m just thankful to find you.”

Unap’s adoptive parents died in August 2011 and she felt a void. Frazier said her family was also grieving over her sister Gayla and she’s amazed at how this reunion happened when everyone needed each other the most.

“When we lost Gayla it was like losing an extremity ... very difficult,” Frazier said. “It’s kind of amazing how everything came together.”

Frazier said Unap has some of the same mannerisms Gayla had, and Jason said he likes Unap’s sense of humor. “When I met Debbie for the first time she started picking on me ... I just sat there and took it,” he said, while Unap and Frazier laughed.

Today, the siblings keep in touch almost every day by sending text messages or via Facebook, and their kids spend time with each other now too.

“The daughter that I lost was a big loss to our family,” Scott said, and then she focused on their reunion. “To me it’s like a blessing ... I’m really happy. I’m grateful to Creator for what’s been allowed me.”



Debbie Unap (left) and Vina Lorene Scott (right) immediately start to cry after they’re reunited on Dec. 29, 2012, at the Chickasaw Community Center in Ada, Okla.

her long lost sister.

“She just got excited,” Frazier said, and Regan confirmed everything by exclaiming, “Yes, yes, yes; it’s all true. It’s my mother-in-law that’s your sister.”

Unap was sleeping through this part of the phone call until Regan knocked on her door and said, “I have your sister on the phone.”

“All these things are going through my mind,” Unap said. “We just started talking ... we have a lot in common.”



Frazier and Unap began exchanging pictures through the Internet and soon a date was set to meet. The families gathered on a Saturday, but the excitement was too much for Unap, Frazier and their brother Jason who couldn’t wait and they met up the night before.

an older sister.

“I admire her story,” Frazier said of her mother. “... that young, not having that support, having to give that child up and never see her again ... Now it’s a healing process ... now this is a time to help mom ... stay strong and love is powerful ... I couldn’t feel more blessed. This is a true, true blessing for all of us.”


Frazier said they want to start a documentary about their mother and the “survivors of Indian boarding schools.” They want to help keep hope alive for anyone searching for their lost child so they can begin healing the “intergenerational trauma.”

“My mother never shared with us her childhood stories because it was such a painful part of her life. Now with our sister finding us with the




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Note: Not all medicine wheels are the same from tribe to tribe. This medicine wheel is intended to be a general representation and does not refer to a specific tribe's symbol of the four directions.

Inside this issue:

- Court denies appeal on Freedmen ruling
- University to honor Elouise Cobell
- Stickball team keeps culture, tradition alive



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 11

MARCH 21, 2013

Tribes plan for worst with looming budget cuts

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – When it comes to the automatic spending cuts that began taking effect this month, federal lawmakers spared programs that serve the nation’s most vulnerable –

such as food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid and veterans’ assistance – from hard hits.

That wasn’t the case with programs for American Indian reservations, where unemployment is far above the national average, women suffer disproportionately from sexual assaults, and school

districts largely lack a tax base to make up for the cuts.

The federal Indian Health Service, which serves 2.1 million tribal members, says it would be forced to slash its number of patient visits by more than 800,000 per year. Tribal programs under the U.S. Department of Interior and the

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs that fund human services, law enforcement, schools, economic development and natural resources stand to lose almost \$130 million under the cuts, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

“We will see significant

impacts almost immediately,” Interior Secretary Ken Salazar told The Associated Press, referring to the BIA. “We will have to furlough some employees. It will mean that there’s going to be a slowing down of the processing of

See **CUTS** Continued on Page 6



Bill John Baker, Cherokee Nation Chief, says tribe is prepared for budget cuts.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and Kaw Nation Chairman Guy Munroe sign the tribe’s renewed tobacco compact March 11.

No more border tobacco tax reduction for Kaw Nation

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Under a new compact signed March 11 with the state of Oklahoma, Kaw Nation smoke shops will no longer sell tobacco products at a reduced tax rate starting later this year.

Under the current compacts that expire in June, lower excise tax rates are available for tribal

smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Arkansas, Kansas or Missouri, which have lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops.

The Kaw Nation, whose headquarters is less than 30 miles from the Oklahoma-Kansas border, currently charges a \$0.2575 per pack tax on cigarettes. In 2011, the northern Oklahoma tribe sold 2.7 million packs

among its wholesale outlet, two smoke shops and two convenience stores. However, starting July 1, the tribe’s stores will instead be charging the full state excise tax rate on all tobacco purchases as per the terms of the compact.

Non-tribal tobacco retailers are required to charge the full tax rate, which is \$1.03 per pack of cigarettes. Smoke shops operated

See **KAW** Continued on Page 3

State seeks control over Osage Co. ground water

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – The Osage Negotiated Rulemaking Committee has now heard more than 16 hours of public comment on oil and gas drilling policy in Osage County.

Despite a deadline to amend drilling policies coming up later this year, that may not be enough time for some committee members and shareholders.

“There’s a good reason to slow things down,” committee member and Osage Minerals Council member Curtis

Bear said at the committee’s March 13 meeting. “We’ve got to do a lot of research.”

Formed in October 2011 after the conclusion of a federal lawsuit alleging mismanagement of the \$4 billion Osage Mineral Estate, the committee was given two years to amend its drilling policies. With multiple interests still weighing in and asking questions about the suggested changes, some committee members and shareholders are asking for more time to look into all available options.

See **OSAGE** Continued on Page 4

BIE, Impact Aid facing tough cuts

■ The Bureau of Indian Education is looking at a 5.4 percent budget cut, or roughly \$42.2 million.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

LAWRENCE, Kan. – Corey LeRoy doesn’t like it, but she knows she doesn’t have much of a choice.

An environmental studies junior at Haskell Indian Nations University and a citizen of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, LeRoy relies on a work study job in the school’s library to help cover her educational expenses. With the federal sequestration going into effect this month, she is already

planning on relying on her other job in a lab across town at the University of Kansas to make ends meet after this semester ends, as an estimated 3,690 work study positions nationwide will be eliminated to accommodate the program’s 5.3 percent budget cut.

“When I picked up my check Friday, I knew I was looking at one of my last paychecks from the government,” she said. “I’m very disheartened but I belong to a very good program that allows me the opportunity to work in a lab at KU and make a little money, so that helps.”

In addition to the work study cuts, the HINU community is also facing a cut in its operating budget, as is

See **BIE** Continued on Page 5

Tribal same-sex bill OK’d, male couple marries

JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich. (AP) – With an exchange of rings and a kiss, two men became spouses Friday during a ceremony at a northern Michigan Indian reservation after the tribal chairman signed a measure approving same-sex marriage in a state where it’s officially banned.

Tim LaCroix, 53, a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, wed longtime

partner Gene Barfield, 60, during a ceremony that blended familiar-sounding vows with Native symbolism including drumming and the burning of pungent sage. The men joyfully embraced as Tribal Chairman Dexter McNamara pronounced them married.

“I’m the happiest, luckiest guy in the world,” Barfield said.

The men, who live in Boyne City, acknowledged the state of Michigan does not recognize their union but said they hoped the tribe’s approval would be one more step toward

acceptance across the U.S.

Federally recognized Native American tribes are self-governing and not bound by the state law.

Same-sex marriage is prohibited under an amendment to the state Constitution approved by voters in 2004. Attorney General Bill Schuette agrees with an opinion issued by his predecessor, Mike Cox, that Michigan law does not regard gay marriages performed in other states as valid, according to spokeswoman Joy Yearout.

See **MARRIAGE** Continued on Page 6



RYAN GARZA, DETROIT FREE PRESS | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Gene Barfield, 60, right, of Boyne City, puts a wedding ring on the hand of his partner Tim LaCroix, 53, of Boyne City, during their wedding ceremony at the government headquarters complex of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians on Friday, March 15, 2013, in Harbor Springs, Mich. The two men were married after the tribal chairman signed a measure approving same-sex marriage in a state where it’s officially banned.



FILE
The visitor's center of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City

State Senate passes Oklahoma American Indian Museum bill

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The Oklahoma Senate has approved legislation that would transfer management of the unfinished American Indian Museum from the museum's board to another agency.

The Senate voted 26-20 for the measure March 12 and sent it to the state House for consideration.

As written, the measure by Republican Sen. Greg Treat of Oklahoma City would make the incomplete Oklahoma

City museum a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society. But Treat says the bill is likely to be amended to authorize the facility's transfer to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation.

The state has spent about \$90 million on the project over the last decade. Museum officials say they need an additional \$80 million to finish the project, including \$40 million from the state that would be matched by private donations

Court denies Cherokee appeal on Freedmen ruling

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – The District of Columbia circuit of the United States Court of Appeals denied a request March 12 from the Cherokee Nation to rehear a decision to overturn the dismissal of a long-running federal lawsuit.

Part of the 2003 Vann v. Salazar case, the Cherokee Nation's appeal stems from a December 2012 ruling by the Court of Appeals that the freedmen could sue Principal Chief Bill John Baker in his official capacity without the tribe specifically listed as a party to the lawsuit.

“As a practical matter...the Cherokee Nation and the Principal Chief in his official capacity are one and the same,” Judge Brett Kavanaugh wrote in the December decision. “As a result, the Principal Chief can adequately represent the Cherokee Nation in this suit, meaning the Cherokee Nation is not a required party.”

The Cherokee Nation had argued that Baker could not sufficiently represent

the tribe's interest and that the lawsuit could not continue without the tribe's involvement. However, since the tribe would not waive its sovereign immunity, the lawsuit would have to be dismissed.

“The chief has no power to change the nation's constitution...and the District Court cannot bind the nation if the nation is not a party to the suit,” wrote Cherokee Nation counsel Jonathan Guy.

Tuesday's decision allows the lawsuit to proceed. No timeline has been offered for oral arguments.

“The Cherokee freedmen are grateful for the decision made by the honorable judges of the D.C. appeals court,” lead plaintiff Marilyn Vann said. “We hope and pray that we and our children will be able to serve our nation as citizens of the tribe as did our fathers and grandfathers based on our rights guaranteed by both the tribe and the U.S. government in the 1866 treaty.”

About 2,800 Freedmen descendants are currently enrolled but no new applications have been processed since a 2007 referendum that restricted

Cherokee Nation citizenship to direct descendants of individuals on the Delaware, Shawnee and Cherokee lists of the Dawes Rolls, which were compiled in the late 19th and early 20th century. A separate lawsuit, Cherokee Nation vs. Nash, is pending in the Northern District of Oklahoma.



Marilyn Vann, lead plaintiff, Vann v. Salazar

Choctaw University receives prestigious award

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma News Release

DURANT, Okla. – Choctaw University, in partnership with Southeastern Oklahoma State University, has won the Distinguished Program-Credit Category Award for the Great Plains Region from the Association of Continuing Higher Education (ACHE), Inc. The ACHE Great Plains Region includes: Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Minnesota,

Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Western Ontario.

Established in 2012, Choctaw University's mission is to empower associates who are committed to personal and professional growth in their career. It provides educational and leadership-building opportunities. At the conclusion of Choctaw University's first year, 73 associates completed the Leadership series and over 100 associates

completed the Continuing Education series.

“Choctaw University has well exceeded our expectations,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “It has been embraced by our associates on several levels and thanks to Southeastern, students are also earning college credits.”

The Award was presented during the 2013 ACHE Great Plains Spring Conference on the campus of Kansas State University on March 7, 2013.

Choctaw University is now eligible for recognition at the National Level. The National Award will be presented at the Annual ACHE Conference and Meeting in Lexington, KY in November 2013.

Dr. Aaron Adair, Dean of Adult and Distance Learning from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, commented, “We're now the ‘Award-Winning’ Choctaw University Executive Leadership Program!”

The Association for Continuing Higher Education, Inc. (ACHE) is an institution-based organization of colleges, universities, and individuals dedicated to the promotion of lifelong learning and excellence in continuing higher education. ACHE encourages professional networks, research, and exchange of information for its members and advocates continuing higher education as a means of enhancing and improving society.

Reclaiming of Miami language gets a boost

LISA CORNWELL
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) – Daryl Baldwin was born around the time that his Miami Tribe of Oklahoma was losing its last generation of fluent speakers and facing the possibility that its language would die with them.

Fifty years later, a project that Baldwin directs at Miami University in southwest Ohio is making headway reclaiming and revitalizing the Myaamia language, through a collaboration that linguists around the country say is an outstanding role model to help save dormant languages from extinction. The collaborative project between the tribe and its namesake university recently became a full-fledged center on the Oxford campus, a move that university and linguists say enhances the project's efforts and expands access to grants and other resources.

“In 2001, I started out with just a desk in the library,” said founding director of the center that now has full-time and part-time staff and student assistance.

The center serves as a research and development arm for the tribe, conducting research to help preserve the language and culture and developing educational materials to help with that. It has produced such tools as an online dictionary and mobile apps to help people learn and speak the language. It also exposes students throughout the university to efforts to revitalize the language and culture, providing visits to tribal headquarters, direct involvement in research, and class visits by center staff.

Tribal officials are pleased with the new center that they say gives more permanency to the effort to preserve their language and culture.

“It assures us that this will go on for a long time,” said Julie Olds, cultural resources officer at the tribe's Miami, Okla., headquarters.

The Miami name is derived from the original Myaamia. The Myaamia people inhabited land now within the borders of Ohio – including the region where the university now stands – Illinois, and Indiana and parts of Michigan and Wisconsin, before government-forced relocations to territories that later became Kansas and Oklahoma.

The center grew out of a more than 40-year-old relationship between the university and the tribe, which has about 4,000 members and fewer resources than larger Native American groups working to save their languages. But

tribal officials say the university partnership has provided research and development tools that the tribe would not have had otherwise and sparked a new desire– especially among young tribal members –to learn about their language and culture.

While it's difficult to determine how many people are now fluent in the language, “at least it is now being used again,” Olds said. She said language and culture camps and workshops growing out of the partnership also are drawing young people, and even older ones.

“It's all about restoring knowledge to the Myaamia community, and the center is key,” Olds said.

Haley Strass, a 22-year-old tribal member from Huntington, Ind., is among 21 students now attending Miami University on scholarships available to qualified tribal members. Her grandmother encouraged her to go there to seek more knowledge about their heritage.

“It's helped me determine who I am within the American culture, and see that I also have a place in the Native American population,” Strass said.

She said her father's generation was mostly taught to suppress Native American culture for fear it would prevent acceptance by the wider society, and the director of the Salem, Ore.-based Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, says said one of the reasons languages are abandoned is that “speakers believe it could hold them back. “

“That perception isn't true, but it's difficult to fight,” said institute director Gregory Anderson.

Nearly half of an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 languages spoken in the world today are in danger of disappearing in this century, according to linguists. But Anderson says the successful collaboration at Miami has been instrumental in fighting against language shifts, where original languages are abandoned in favor of others.

Mary Linn, associate curator of Native American Languages at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma, says about 17 of the 39 tribes in Oklahoma are in the same situation as the Miami Tribe. She said the Myaamia Center is an important role model that gives “hope and inspiration” to those tribes.

Baldwin says the center's message is simple.

“We have to get people to understand that we are a living people with a past,” he said. “And not a people from the past.”

41st Annual Northeastern State University April 8-13, 2013

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on the American Indian

TECHNOLOGY FUTURE A World Like the PAST

MONDAY, APRIL 8

EVENING EVENTS
American Indian Symposium Film Series
Titles: TBA
7 - 9 p.m., Webb Auditorium

TUESDAY APRIL 9

EVENING EVENTS
American Indian Symposium Film Series
Killing Stereotypes: Assassin's Creed and Natives in Popular Culture
7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Webb Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

ALL DAY EVENTS
OSU Oral History Project
Julie Little Thunder
Native Veteran Interviews
Webb Technology TV Studio

MORNING ASSEMBLY
Opening Ceremony
Host: Native American Student Association
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Keynote address:
Charles "Chief" Boyd, Architect
Cherokee Heritage Center 50th Anniversary
10 - 10:50 a.m., Rozell Ballroom B

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

AFTERNOON SESSIONS
Keynote address:
Dr. Daniel Littlefield
1 - 1:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom B
Keynote address:
Dr. Daniel Wildcat
2 - 2:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom B
Hearing Tests:
Walk-in Screenings
Dr. Karen Patterson
2 - 5 p.m., UC 222
Paper Document Preservation Workshop
Vickie Sheffler
3 - 3:50 p.m., Morgan Room
Panel Discussion
Cherokee Scholars Series
3 - 3:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom
Cultural Event
Traditional Stickball
2 - 4:00 p.m. Beta Field
Open House
Indigenous Scholar Development Center
Scholar Presentations
Miss NASA Reception
4 - 5:30 p.m.

EVENING EVENTS
American Indian Symposium Film Series
Bunky Echo-Hawk Age-old Technology Meets Pop Culture
7 - 9 p.m., Webb Auditorium

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THURSDAY, APRIL 11

MORNING ASSEMBLY
General Assembly
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Panel Presentation:
Chickasaw Nation Communications & Creative Services
Title: TBA
10:30 - 11:20 a.m., Herb Rozell Ballroom B

NOON
AISES Luncheon w/Speaker
Chris Samples, Redstone Construction
Title: TBA
11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom A
TICKET REQUIRED

EVENING EVENTS
Indigenous Languages Documentation & Revitalization Seminar Opening Session
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald & Team
6 - 8 p.m., Morgan Rm

Cultural Activity
Indian Marbles Exhibition Game
7 - 9 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

ALL DAY EVENTS
Indigenous Languages Documentation & Revitalization Seminar
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald & Dr. Brad Montgomery-Anderson
Immersion for Native Languages
8 - 5 p.m., UC Morgan Rm

MORNING ASSEMBLY
General Assembly
10:15 - 10:30 a.m., Rozell BR
Keynote address:
50 Years of Technology at the Cherokee Heritage Center
10:30 - 11:20 a.m., Rozell Ballroom B

NOON
Cherokee Heritage Center Luncheon w/ Storyteller
Robert Lewis
11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom A
TICKET REQUIRED

EVENING EVENTS
NSU Powwow
6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Rozell BR
Head Staff:
Kelly Anquoe, MC
Stanley John, AD
Joel Deerinwater, Head Singer
Thorpe Sine, Head Man Dancer
Erica Pretty Eagle Moore, Head Lady Dancer
Adam Proctor, Head Gourd Dancer
Cherokee Nation Color Guard

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

ALL DAY EVENTS
Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages (OWNAL) [ends Sunday noon]
8 - 5 p.m., UC Morgan Rm
Guest Scholar:
Dr. Paula Munro
Distinguished Professor of Linguistics, UCLA

GOULD DANCING
2:00 p.m.

BREAK
Powwow Dinner
5 - 6:30 p.m.

EVENING EVENTS
NSU Powwow
7 - 12 p.m., Rozell BR

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Ponca program teaches youth about culture, history

■ Portraits of their chiefs adorn the walls. Names such as Big Snake and Smoke Maker. Hairy Grizzly Bear and Black Crow.

KEVIN ABOUREZK
Lincoln Journal Star

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) – This is their grandfather’s song, and these are his grandchildren, singing as a way to honor their ancestor.

They sing Standing Bear’s song so they will be remembered, because it’s sometimes easy for others to forget they’re still here.

The smell of burning sage and the sound of drums fill the former church sanctuary, where the five young men huddle around a drum listening to Steve Laravie talk about seeing models dressed in feathers and buckskin.

“Why are they mocking us?” he asked. “Because they think we no longer exist. They think we’re a thing of the past.”

The Lincoln Journal Star reports the 31-year-old wants to change that.

Every Wednesday afternoon at 5, he meets with about 20 young Native men and women at the Ponca Tribe’s offices at 17th and E streets to practice drumming and singing and to tell stories. The Ponca youth culture program is meant to teach the youth about their culture and history and to give them a sense of identity.

The program began in April 2012 and is open to any youth.

Every Wednesday, such as this one, it begins with drumming.

A young man leads the song, his voice low and steady. The other men and Laravie

join as the beat builds and grows louder.

Portraits of their chiefs adorn the walls. Names such as Big Snake and Smoke Maker. Hairy Grizzly Bear and Black Crow.

As they finish, Laravie explains the song’s words. It’s about Chief Standing Bear’s fight to gain independence and recognition for his people. It’s a song meant to honor the chief.

“This is our song, our family song,” he tells the young men and women gathered in the sanctuary.

His son, Steve Laravie Jr., often leads the singers. The 15-year-old Lincoln High School sophomore said learning about the songs helps him express his spirituality and stay on the right track. The youth group also has helped him learn to stand up for his people’s rights.

On Jan. 28, he joined his father and others to sing and play drums at a rally at the Capitol to protest the Keystone XL pipeline and draw attention to perceived attacks on Native people in America and Canada. It was the first time the young man had taken part in such a show of cultural pride.

He said learning the Ponca songs – many of which were nearly forgotten until now – helps him understand who he is.

“They help me understand my language that was lost,” he said. “That can help me express my Ponca identity.”

His father said it’s important for the youth to learn the culture, language and history. For many years, the Ponca forgot those things as they struggled to regain their collective identity after the tribe lost its federal recognition. But in 1990, it

once again was recognized and its members were able to enroll again.

But much was lost in that time, Steve Laravie Sr. said. Songs and language were forgotten. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska – the northern band of the tribe that split into

including a digital language library developed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. And many traditional songs have been recorded and archived by the southern Ponca and the Smithsonian Institution, Laravie said.

He has mined Smithsonian

didn’t have their own drum group.

“I took an oath to never let that happen again,” he said.

Now, the youth program students sing about nine Ponca language songs, as well as several other Lakota ceremony songs, and they plan to take their drum to the powwow in Niobrara in April.

Steve Laravie Sr. has begun recording many of the Ponca songs they have learned and hopes to build a digital library that includes those recordings as well as older recordings of Ponca songs he has found elsewhere.

At the weekly youth meetings, he often gives lists of Ponca words to the students to learn.

“They’re thirsty for knowledge,” he said. “They’re thirsty for who they are. They’re thirsty for identity.”

Vanessa Rodriguez Laravie, 11, said she knew little about her Ponca heritage, except that she was related to Standing Bear, before coming to the youth group meetings. She since has learned to stitch and make Native regalia, as well as sing along with the drum group.

“I always thought I was just American,” she said. “But it shows my true self.”

D.J. Laravie, 13, said he has attended Native sweat lodge ceremonies and enjoys being able to spend time with his friends and relatives while learning about his culture. He said the youth group has taught him leadership skills and made him proud to be Native.

He said he also enjoys spending time with his dad.

“My dad is trying to bring it all back,” he said. “It makes me really proud.”



FRANCIS GARDLER | LINCOLN STAR JOURNAL
With a mixed media portrait of Ponca Chief Big Snake displayed behind him, Steve Laravie Jr. sings and plays a rhythm on a drum with others during a weekly meeting that his father leads to help revive the tribe’s culture and language Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at the Ponca Tribe Offices.

Cherokee Special Olympian receives special honor

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)–A Cherokee weightlifter who won gold medals in the Special Olympics, numerous national titles and hundreds of trophies has become the first Special Olympian inducted into the American Indian Hall of Fame.

Brady Tanner, 32, was inducted Saturday into the Kansas City, Mo., hall where he joins American Indian luminaries such as Billy Mills and Jim Thorpe. He’s achieved the distinction despite being born with Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome, which slows growth and mental development and makes it difficult for him to speak.

Tanner was honored earlier last week

at a gathering of family and friends at Haskell Indian Nations University, where he has lifted weights for the last 12 years. His personal record for dead-lift is 575 pounds, while squat is 625 pounds and bench-press is 450 pounds, The Lawrence Journal-World reported.

Speakers at the gathering talked more about Tanner’s attitude than his accomplishments.

“When the creator gave him to the Tanners, he was a gift,” Haskell administrator Stephen Prue said. “Not only was he a gift to the community and the Haskell family, he was a gift to the world.”

His mother, Janie Tanner, said Brady

didn’t walk until he was 3 or talk until he was 6.

“The fact that he could overcome things and achieve this, it’s pretty amazing to me,” she said.

His father Gary thanked people who had helped his son.

“Everyone here was so important to him,” he said. “He feeds off of them. (The honor) is an accumulation for all of his efforts and everyone in his life who has supported him, even if it was a pat on the shoulder.”

Gary Tanner said Brady’s talent was obvious as soon as he started lifting. He won all the events he competed in at his first Special Olympics. From there, he

had to set personal goals “because he was so far above his competitors.”

The highlight of his career came at the 2011 World Special Olympics Games, when he won gold medals in overall weightlifting, dead-lift and bench-press, as well as a silver medal in squat.

“Brady never says, ‘I can’t do it,’” his mother said. “He never says no. He always continues to try to do his best, even if it’s hard. He always does it with a smile and is always willing to learn.”

Brady said he appreciated being honored by the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

“It feels good,” he said with a smile. “I am happy.”

KAW

Continued from Page 1

by tribes that do not have a compact are also required to charge that rate when selling to non-tribal citizens. Oklahoma only charges an excise tax on tobacco purchases and does not apply its state sales tax rate.

With Monday’s agreement, the northern Oklahoma tribe became the first of 28 tribes to renew its 2008 tobacco compact, set to expire in June. Nine tribes do not have tobacco compacts with the state and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation signed one last year that is in effect through Aug. 30, 2017.

During preliminary compact discussions with tribal leaders last fall, Steven Mullins, Gov. Fallin’s general counsel, announced that the state did not want to continue offering border rates and most favored nation clauses in new compacts if at all possible, claiming they created an unfair advantage for some tribes.

Under the terms of the compact, the tribe’s share of the compact tax revenue will also decrease over time.

From July 1 through Dec. 31, 2014, the tribe will keep 75 percent and the state of Oklahoma will get the remaining 25 percent.

On Jan. 1, 2015, the Kaw Nation’s share drops to 70 percent and on Jan. 1, 2016, it decreases again, to 65 percent. Starting Jan. 1, 2017, the tribe and state will split the proceeds evenly. The new compact is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2017.

“We recognize and appreciate the unique cultural and economic contributions of the tribes to our state. My administration is committed to working with tribal government in a productive manner for the benefit of all Oklahomans,” Gov. Mary Fallin said. “The signing of these compacts will provide both the state and Kaw Nation with new revenue that will enhance the availability and quality of government services for all Oklahomans, especially the tribal and non-tribal members in north central Oklahoma which the

Kaw Nation already serves. I appreciate Chairman Munroe and the Kaw Nation for working with state officials on the signing of these compacts.”

The tribe also signed a burn ban compact with the state Monday, the first such agreement between the state of Oklahoma and a tribal government. Valid through Dec. 31, 2015, the agreement applies to all land within the tribe’s jurisdiction in northern Oklahoma and allows for coordinated investigation efforts in suspected arson cases.

“The Kaw Nation is very pleased to have concluded negotiations with Gov. Fallin related to burn bans and tobacco sales,” Chairman Guy Munroe said. “The Kaw Nation appreciates the effort and understanding that Gov. Fallin and her staff have brought to these negotiations. These compacts provide certainty to the Kaw Nation and provide a foundation for a continuing strong relationship between the Kaw Nation and the state for the benefit of our members and the members of our local community.”

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

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University’s Native American Center to honor Cobell

KIM BRIGGEMAN
Missoulian

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) – Louise Cobell had a way of sorting through complex Native American land ownership tangles and combing out what’s right.

It’s part of the legacy the leader from the Blackfeet tribe left behind when she died in 2011, and one that still resounds with Terry Payne.

“Louise had a voracious appetite for justice, and she was an inspiration to me and so many other people,” said Payne, a Missoula businessman whose family was the lead donor for construction of the Payne Family Native American Center on the University of Montana campus.

Now Payne is helping fund an effort to complete the building. He provided the launching gift for the \$1.2 million Louise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, dedicated to the passionate advocate of Native rights who was instrumental in obtaining a \$3.4 billion Indian trust settlement from the federal government.

Pending approval by the Montana Board of Regents in Helena this week, the Cobell Institute is envisioned to be a complex of labs, classrooms and a small theater in the unfinished lower level of the three-year-old Native American Center on the southwest edge of the UM Oval.

University President Royce Engstrom announced creation

of the institute Wednesday at a ceremony in the center’s Bonnie Heavy Runner Gathering Place.

“Her life’s work was the pursuit of justice and we here at the University of Montana are humbled that her family has permitted us to honor

well as understand worldwide cultures of indigenous people.”

The addition in the “garden level” of the building will be “a space where students can work effectively in small and sometimes not so small groups on real-world problems, in

Interesting Geometry

There are 6,500 square feet to work with, and on-campus charettes began Thursday (March 7) to determine how best to do it. Comer said the building’s “interesting geometry” – it’s built around a 12-sided rotunda, each side

filled with computers and a culture lab with digital and media resources. Another room will probably be set up as a classroom with projection capabilities for digital movies.

“Film studies have become important in a number of areas of the College (of Arts and Sciences) that really have no proper venue for that,” Comer said.

The other two rooms will likely be standard classrooms, built in a way that can accommodate meetings. Comer said the institute will be a collaborative affair, designed not just for the Native American Studies Department, but for geography, forestry and conservation, anthropology and law students as well.

The land lab will allow students to work on intensive mapping projects.

“When you think about mapping in Indian Country, it’s really complex because reservation land has all different kinds of overlapping ownership, from trust land to tribally controlled land to individual fee patent land,” said Dave Beck, who chairs the Department of Native American Studies.

A sophisticated GIS-centered lab will allow the overlay of historic maps to map landownership patterns with natural and cultural resources. An upstairs room in the Native American Center is dedicated to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, which does similar work.

The Minnesota-based

foundation has been very encouraging of the Cobell Institute project.

“They’ve basically said if you build this we’ll work with you to help students identify and get into real-world projects for Native communities,” said Comer. “We’re really excited by the prospect of working with groups like that.

“We don’t want busywork exercise. That’s really Royce’s vision: When they’re working on classroom projects, those projects will produce something that’s helping a community and making a real difference.”

Beck said the culture lab will probably provide access to such resources as creative language materials from tribes and communities, as well as distance learning capabilities that allow faculty from across the campus to have face-to-face interaction with indigenous communities in New Zealand, Australia and Norway.

While the Payne family provided the lion’s share of the \$1.2 million toward construction, and other funding sources have been tapped, Comer said some money still needs to be raised. He hopes Wednesday’s announcement spurs those efforts.

Construction will begin as early as next month, and officials said the Cobell Institute could be ready for students by the end of the year.



FILE PHOTO
President Barack Obama meets with Louise Cobell in the Oval Office, Dec. 8, 2010 - the day he signed legislation approving the Cobell settlement.

her,” he said.

The institute, said Engstrom, can be a place “where future leaders will meet the challenges around land and asset management as

this case all related to Native communities,” said Chris Comer, dean of UM’s College of Arts and Sciences that includes the Native American Studies Department.

representing a Montana tribe – will make it “a real puzzle to say how we best use that space.”

The working idea is for two laboratories - a land lab

OSAGE

Continued from Page 1

The state of Oklahoma is also asking for the committee to throw on the brakes.

Oklahoma’s solicitor general, Patrick Wyrick, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board have both requested in separate letters to Eddie Streater, the acting deputy director of trust services for the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Eastern Oklahoma region, that the federal government add language to its policies that would require oil and gas companies drilling in Osage County honor Oklahoma state law with respect to ground water, including getting permits from the state to use ground water or stream water for oil and gas production or exploration.

OWRB handles water use permits for the state’s other 76 counties and has a board member, Bartlesville-based rancher Ford Drummond, serving concurrently on the Osage County Cattlemen’s

Association board. During the February meeting, Jeff Henry, the Cattlemen’s president, urged the Committee to “adopt the strongest regulations” found around the country.

Currently, all drilling and exploration permits for Osage County are handled by the BIA’s Pawhuska office.

“We hope that you amend the regulation as we have suggested,” Wyrick wrote. “If not, the state may be forced to pursue all available legal remedies to protect its sovereign right to regulate the waters within its borders.”

During the committee’s seven public hearings, several landowners and ranchers have complained about oil and gas producers contaminating their drainage ponds and well water by allowing saltwater to spew and run off unchecked from drill sites.

However, the 1.4 billion acre mineral estate is managed by the BIA, which means any environmental issues stemming from the estate’s use would be under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection

Agency or the Department of Environmental Quality rather than the state.

“As a general matter, water rights are a complicated issue,” Department of Interior attorney Vanessa Ray-Hodge said. “However, it is not true that all water is automatically subject to state law, as there are a whole host of issues involved that this committee will not comment on in any way.

“As a matter of black-letter law, the mineral estate trumps the surface. That mineral estate is held in trust and is subject to federal law.”

Several oil and gas producers also asked that the committee take additional time if at all possible to allow for additional feedback on several proposed changes, including the potential implementation of standards used by the Bureau of Land Management on all other drilling sites within Indian Country.

“We ask that this process be prolonged so that the producers, land owners and other groups can be at the table,” Devon Energy representative Matt Beavers

said.

Previous requests for subcommittee representation from the oil and gas producers, as well as the Osage County Cattlemen’s Association, have previously been rejected. The groups submitted written suggestions for the updated policies prior to the March meeting, but the committee rejected several due to language concerns.

“We need to find something that we can all live with in good times and bad times,” Bear said. “If the Keystone (XL pipeline) comes through this area, it’ll effect the price of oil and gas for everybody.”

The smaller oil and gas producers also continued to share their frustrations at the prospect of changing how the royalty rates are calculated, which was first discussed at the February meeting in Pawhuska.

Under the current federal regulations, the royalty rates are based off of the actual selling prices for at least one major petroleum purchaser in Osage County. Under the proposed changes, the rate

would instead be determined by either the monthly average New York Mercantile Exchange, or NYMEX, daily price of oil in Cushing, Okla., or the selling price, whichever is higher after adjusted for gravity. Despite concerns from several shareholders and producers at the previous meeting, the proposed change remained in the draft version of the updated regulations.

“This could potentially cause conflict and concern,” Osage Mineral Council member and committee alternate Myron Red Eagle said. “We don’t need that.

“When this is all over we (OMC committee members) will still be here. We will have to face the people who elected us, as well as our families and our children. I feel for the producers. They have made it very clear that they may have to leave over this and I believe them. I remember the oil bust in the ‘80s; we all do. We need to take their concerns seriously.”

The committee’s last public meeting is scheduled for April 2 at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural

Center in Pawhuska. Although public comments are welcome at the meeting, interested individuals and groups are asked to submit them by March 25 if at all possible so the committee has time to consider and incorporate the feedback in their draft proposal at the meeting. A draft of the proposed changes is available online at www.bia.gov/osageregnetg.

After the April meeting, a final draft of the proposed revisions will be sent to the DOI for review. Ray-Hodge declined to give a definite timeline for when the regulations, if approved, would be enacted, but said that they would potentially be in place by the end of the year.

“I just hope it doesn’t take as long as the IBIA (Interior Board of Indian Appeals),” Osage Minerals Council member and shareholder Cynthia Boone said. “It could take years.”

ATTENTION

WOMEN AND HISPANIC FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The United States Government is establishing a Claims Process to make available up to \$1.33 billion or more to farmers who alleged discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on being female, or based on being Hispanic, in making or servicing farm loans during certain periods between 1981 and 2000. If you qualify and submit a timely claim, you could receive an award of up to \$50,000 or up to \$250,000 in cash, depending on the evidence that you submit. USDA will also provide a total of up to \$160 million in debt relief to successful Claimants who currently owe USDA money for eligible farm debt.

Claims Filing Deadline: March 25, 2013

For a claims package or for help filing a claim contact

Alicia Seyler, Farm Advocate
918.699.9850 or 202.276.2634
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“Where every day is Indian Day”

Tribes forming coalition to act as 1 nation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) – Several Sioux tribes have begun laying the groundwork for working as one nation on issues they deem important.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe hosted officials from the Standing Rock Sioux, Rosebud Sioux and Crow Creek Sioux in Rapid City for three days of meetings late last week. Such a meeting has not happened in more than a century, Oglala Sioux President Bryan Brewer told the Rapid City Journal.

“This has been something the tribes have talked about for years,” he said. “It has always been a dream of our tribes, but it actually happened now. This is a historic event for us all to pull together again.”

About 60 people took part in the meetings and signed a proclamation declaring their

intent to work together as the Oceti Sakowin, or the seven council fires of the great Lakota-Dakota-Nakota people. They also produced a set of bylaws and a mission statement and will be preparing position papers.

“We identified some areas that have the most need, including our land issues, environmental issues like with the oil pipelines, economic, education and child welfare,” Brewer said.

There are 22 Sioux tribes eligible to join the organization, Brewer said. The next meeting will be hosted by the Rosebud Sioux in early April.

“Individually we are not very strong, but together we are hoping to be a pretty strong organization,” Brewer said.

BIE

Continued from Page 1

the case with other schools affiliated with the Bureau of Indian Education.

An arm of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the BIE oversees 187 schools and two post-secondary institutions in 23 states. Originally allocated \$796.1 million for 2013, the BIE is now looking at a 5.4 percent budget cut, or roughly \$42.2 million.

“Every account is getting cut by about 5 percent,” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said. “I simply don’t have the flexibility to take 10 percent from one area to spare another.”

Among those schools, 126 are operated through self-governance agreements signed with local tribes, such as Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla., which is run by the Cherokee Nation via contract. Cherokee Nation officials estimate that the federal sequestration will have a roughly \$400,000 short-term impact on the school.

Sequoyah Schools Superintendent Leroy Qualls said the Cherokee County school will primarily feel the impact next year since this school year’s funding is already in place.

No job cuts or course eliminations are on the table and efforts are being put in place to cut back on non-essential travel and

professional development for teachers.

“To alleviate some of the strain on travel expenses, we’ve all tightened the belt on traveling, including myself,” Qualls said. “I’ve taken no overnight stays on the dozen or so required state superintendent’s meetings and mandatory charter school trainings I’ve attended in Oklahoma City this year.”

The impact will also be lessened through attrition. Sequoyah will still offer the same courses, but students may not see as much flexibility in the times those courses are offered in the fall. However, a recent grant is helping to offer some courses this summer. Students needing to catch up on credits can now take summer credit recovery classes. The school also tentatively plans to offer driver’s education this summer with the grant.

The effects of the federal sequester will also be felt in non-BIE schools. Impact Aid, which is additional federal funds provided to schools as compensation for lost property tax revenue due to untaxed federal land within its district, such as nearby military bases, reservations or other land held in trust, is also subject to immediate across the board cuts. During the 2011 fiscal year, more than \$1.3 billion in Impact Aid was awarded to school districts across the country, including more than 200 in Oklahoma alone.

Located in the capital of the Comanche Nation,

Lawton Public Schools receives about 7 percent of its annual operating budget from Impact Aid, thanks in part to nearby Fort Sill. Superintendent Larry Beauchamp said his district’s 2012-2013 budget planned ahead for the potential loss of Impact Aid so that if the sequestration happened, they would be in compliance with a state law requiring districts to operate with a balanced budget.

“When we set our budget for this year, we didn’t budget those dollars in case those potential cuts actually happened so we could end the year on the right side of the ledger,” Beauchamp said. “We faced it up front, but I don’t think any of us expected it to actually happen.”

Between the then-theoretical Impact Aid loss and additional cuts in funding from the state of Oklahoma, Lawton Public Schools absorbed the loss of 51 teaching positions for the current school year. If the sequester continues, Beauchamp said his district will be hiring fewer teachers for the 2013-2014 school year.

“This is a 10-year process,” he said. “We’ve potentially got nine more years of this. Next year, all of our federal programs will be hit, including Title I (programs for high poverty schools), Title II (library and textbook resources) and Title VII (Indian Education). That means fewer opportunities to help all children unless the sequester is ended soon.”

COMMENTARY ▼

Sink or swim: The feds are out of the rescue business

LISA SNELL

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn characterized his job as a hard one when he addressed an audience in Oklahoma earlier this month. “I’ve basically taken on almost all of the United States’ problems over the last 200 years,” he said.

He didn’t just refer to the “Indian Problem,” did he? The problem the United States has always had of “what to do” with the Indians?

The problem Andrew Jackson sought to put out of sight and out of mind by signing the Indian Removal Act in 1830?

The same problem Chester Arthur, the 21st president of the United States, brought before Congress in 1881?

“We have to deal with the appalling fact that though thousands of lives have been sacrificed and hundreds of millions of dollars expended in the attempt to solve the Indian problem, it has until within the past few years seemed scarcely nearer a solution than it was half a century ago,” Arthur said during his first address to Congress that year.

Arthur suggested creating Indian allotments, because he believed the allotment system would dissolve the “tribal bond, which is so prominent a feature of savage life.” He believed Indians would turn to agriculture and be assimilated into White society through education provided by schools like the one in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

I’m fairly certain President Arthur would be appalled the “Indian Problem” still exists – that tribal bonds are still strong and tribal governments still exist - nearly 183 years after Jackson signed the Removal Act.

He and Jackson are probably rolling in their graves.

Whether they are rolling in disgust or laughter, I do not know. Perhaps they don’t know which way to roll any more than I do.

The “Indian Problem” isn’t theirs anymore. It’s ours and not everyone is prepared.

The BIA is handing the problem of managing our governments firmly back to us – for the first time in, what was that number? 200 years? So, after 200 years of having a supreme authority to help us settle our disputes and assist us in managing our affairs, we are being cut off.

Several Oklahoma tribal nations are torn apart by internal conflict. We have a tribe being led by two opposing governments, conducting two tribal courts and passing legislation. Another tribe’s election board has been locked out of its office since a 2011 recall election dispute. We have tribal citizens who don’t truly know who is legally in charge of their tribes, where the tribal money goes or how it is spent.

And that’s the short list.

Tribal leaders and citizens alike have appealed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for help because they have nowhere else to go.

They have been told to help themselves. After all, that is the point of self-government. The BIA says it will become involved only when absolutely necessary.

The federal government has been more than

happy to interfere in tribal affairs over the course of history when there was something to gain from it – land, gold, oil and minerals. In my own tribal history, there are several federally appointed “Chiefs for a day” who signed documents and performed other duties as required by the feds.

Yet today, when tribal funds are frozen; the legality of tribal court cases are questionable; elders, children and the sick aren’t getting the help they need; and tribal employees aren’t getting paid - it’s hands off for the BIA. They respect our tribal sovereignty, they say, and turn away when asked for help.

Isn’t it absolutely necessary to help when people are suffering? I watch the news. The U.S. government rushes into countries all over the world to help when there is civil unrest. When governments are collapsing and people need food and medical aid, they rush in with their NATO allies to save the day.

What about us? We who live within your own boundaries?

Washburn said he didn’t take his job because he wanted to be a referee. Watching two tribes fight was like watching his kids fight. He doesn’t want to take sides. He wants them to work it out on their own.

And so the Great White Father makes the decree to his sovereign dependents: work it out on your own. Paternalism is over.

I can’t really blame Washburn. Who would want to referee in Indian Country?

It’s a job that would involve unpopular and often controversial decisions. It’s a lose/lose proposition. Intervention will be interpreted as uprooting tribal sovereignty and/or playing favorites while non-intervention shows a lack of concern and empathy for the welfare of tribal citizens who have nowhere else to turn.

What to do? Take on that job or wash your hands of it? The hands have been washed. Apparently, lack of empathy is the easier course.

To continue to survive and prosper in this world, we must work out a solution to intra-tribal and inter-tribal disputes. And it must be a solution we are all bound to abide - an intra-tribal NATO of sorts, or perhaps a Peace Council composed of representatives from each tribe. Otherwise, many governments will falter and possibly fall, one by one, as the feds keep a grip on the purse strings while turning a deaf ear to pleas for help.

Washburn said if tribes have the tools, they’ll “generally do better than the federal government.”

Who has the tools and the strength to wield them? I think that’s you, Mr. Washburn. We still need a little help from the BIA and some tools to work with. Not forever, mind you, but just a little longer to get some affairs in order. We have 200 years of catching up to do.

Lisa Snell is the Owner/Publisher of the Native Times. She is a 1993 graduate of the University of Tulsa’s School of Communication and is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She has owned the Native Times since Sept. 1, 2008.


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Whiteclay alcohol sales dropped again in 2012

GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) – A tiny Nebraska town that sells millions of cans of beer on the border of South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation saw its alcohol sales drop for the second year in a row in 2012, according to a report by Nebraska’s liquor control commission that American Indian advocates said was encouraging.

Four beer stores in Whiteclay, which has roughly a dozen residents, sold what amounts to nearly 3.9 million, 12-ounce cans of beer last year. That’s a 10 percent drop from 2011, when the stores collectively sold the equivalent of nearly 4.3 million cans of beer, according to the commission’s year-end report.

Alcohol sales had previously been climbing in Whiteclay, which American Indian advocates and others blame for alcoholism and other social problems plaguing the heavily impoverished reservation, where alcohol is banned. In 2010, sales had climbed to 4.9 million cans of beer compared to 4.3 million cans in 2007.

It’s unclear why sales have

dropped. Business owners in Whiteclay have pointed to financial struggles of the tribal government, which supplies many of the reservation’s jobs. But activists who want to shutter Whiteclay scoff at that claim, saying the reservation has been impoverished for generations, and attribute the decline to increased awareness of the town and the work of Pine Ridge residents to discourage drinking.

The Sheridan County Sheriff’s office also installed a security camera in Whiteclay, which allows deputies to keep watch on the town from their home base in Rushville, about 20 miles away.

Nebraska lawmakers have tried for years to address the problem with little success. On Friday, a legislative committee killed a bill that would have increased the state’s beer excise tax by 5 cents per gallon. The plan would have generated about \$2.3 million annually to help law enforcement.

The state liquor commission reported that Whiteclay alcohol sales generated \$113,000 for the state last year, down from nearly \$125,000 in 2011.

Activists who oppose Whiteclay’s beer sales said they were encouraged by the commission’s report.

“Wow, that’s awesome,” Olowan Martinez, who lives in the reservation town of Porcupine, S.D. “But as good as it is to hear, it’s not good enough. The fact is, they’re still making millions off the misery of our people.”

Mark Vasina, a Lincoln filmmaker who produced a documentary on Whiteclay, attributed the decline to renewed awareness of the town.

Whiteclay and the reservation have seen a surge of media attention in recent years, from a 20/20 special in 2011 to widespread publicity last year when the Oglala Sioux Tribe filed a federal lawsuit that sought \$500 million in damages from the beer stores, their distributors and big-name beer manufacturers.

The tribe alleged in its lawsuit that one in four children born on the reservation suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and the average life expectancy is estimated between 45 and 52 years – the shortest in the North

Hemisphere except for Haiti, according to the lawsuit. The average American life expectancy is 77.5 years.

A judge ultimately dismissed the lawsuit, saying the tribe didn’t have a legal case but added that Whiteclay “contributes significantly to tragic conditions on the reservation. And it may well be that the defendants could, or should, do more to try to improve those conditions for members of the tribe.”

Vasina said tribe members and the tribal police have also used alcohol checkpoints at key times, such as New Year’s Eve and high school prom nights.

“All of these were generated out of the reservation, not from folks in Nebraska,” Vasina said. “I know there’s a lot more talk and concern and awareness – not just awareness of how bad Whiteclay is. That’s always been true. But there’s an awareness that things can change.”

Vasina disputed arguments that the decrease was due to tribal budget cuts.

“Pine Ridge fell off the fiscal cliff in the 19th century,” he said,

MARRIAGE

Continued from Page 1

The federal Defense of Marriage Act lets states refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in states that allow them, although the law is being challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court. The outcome of that case could affect a pending suit in Detroit that contends Michigan’s ban violates the U.S. Constitution.

Either way, the tribe’s new policy is likely to result in an eventual legal showdown with the state, said Richard Monette, a professor and federal Indian law specialist at the University of Wisconsin. Gay couples married under tribal jurisdiction may adopt children, get divorced or be required to pay child support. If they move off the reservation and try to have tribal court orders enforced in state courts, “it could be ... a bit of chaos,” he said.

At least two other U.S. Indian tribes recognize gay marriage. The Coquille Tribe in North Bend, Ore., began recognizing the unions in 2009 and the Suquamish Tribe in Suquamish, Wash., did so in 2011. Oregon, like Michigan, has a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Approval from the 4,531-member Michigan tribe didn’t happen immediately.

Annette VanDeCar, who is gay, said she and other members began discussing the matter a couple of years ago and proposed a marriage statute to the Little Traverse Bay Bands tribal council in February 2012. It was rejected last summer on a 5-4 vote. But the council approved it by the same margin this month after adding a provision requiring that at least one member of a wedded same-sex couple be a tribal citizen.

“Our tribe is making history. I’m very proud,” said Cherie Dominick, who works in its legal department.

The idea that same-sex relationships are immoral is “an imposed Western belief” that contradicts the traditional native concept that people have “two spirits” with male and female natures, she said.

McNamara, who could have vetoed the measure, said he considered it a simple matter of providing equal rights for all tribal citizens. “Everyone has a different view of what love is, and all are deserving of respect,” he said.

He signed the bill in the tribal government building to applause from several dozen onlookers. Shortly afterward, LaCroix and Barfield – dressed casually in open-necked shirts and sweaters affixed with white lapel flowers – stepped forward to become the first couple wed under its provisions.

After reciting pledges to each other, they were presented with a slender maple limb bent into a hoop that represents the four stages of life. Using ribbon of different colors, they knotted sacred plants – tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass – to the wood.

Although their relationship began three decades ago in the U.S. Navy, they said marriage was important to fulfill a longtime dream and to send a message to others.

“We want to show people in the gay community that you can do this – you can have a sustained, fulfilling relationship and people will accept you,” LaCroix said. “Times are changing.”

The men are unsure whether they’ll be able to file taxes as a couple or whether Barfield will be recognized as a dependent by LaCroix’s health insurer. Other legal hurdles remain. But on Friday, they shared cake with well-wishers and relished their status as a married couple.

“There’s no way I can love him more than I already have, but this is still a whole new thing,” Barfield said. “My husband – I can’t believe I’m finally saying that.”

CUTS

Continued from Page 1

applications and so there will be an impact on the work that the BIA does on behalf of Indian Country.”

The timing and magnitude of most of the cuts are uncertain as Congress looks for a way to keep the government operating beyond March 27 with no budget in place. In the meantime, tribes across the country are preparing for the worst.

Some are better-positioned than others.

In northwestern New Mexico’s McKinley County, where about a third of the population lives below the federal poverty level, the Gallup-McKinley County School District is facing a \$2 million hit. The cuts could result in job losses and more crowded classrooms. The district that draws mostly Navajo students from reservation land not subject to state property taxes relies heavily on federal funding to pay its teachers and provide textbooks to students.

“To me, it seems very unfair that one of the poorest counties with one of highest Native enrollment in the country has to be impacted the most by sequestration,” said district superintendent Ray Arsenault. “We are very poor, we’re very rural, and it’s going to hurt us much more.”

The district faced enormous public pressure when it wanted to close schools on the Navajo Nation

due to budget shortfalls, so it won’t go that route under looming cuts, Arsenault said. Instead, he would look to reduce his 1,800 employees by 200 – mostly teachers – and add a handful of students to each classroom.

The Red Lake Band Of Chippewa Indians in northern Minnesota expects 22 jobs, mostly in law enforcement, will be lost immediately. Tribal Chairman Floyd Jourdain Jr. said police already operate at a level considered unsafe by the BIA. Deeper cuts forecast for later this year will increase job losses to 39, and “public safety operations at Red Lake will collapse,” he said.

On the Rosebud Indian Reservation in south-central South Dakota, a new \$25 million, 67,500-square foot jail that was to provide cultural and spiritual wellness programs for tribal members charged with crimes sits empty. The annual operating budget of \$5 million would be reduced to around \$840,000 because of the automatic budget cuts, said jail administrator Melissa Eagle Bear.

“I don’t think this is intentional, but I do feel like it’s the government’s way of controlling things,” she said. “They definitely have control, and we’re going to keep going. ... I know Indian people. We tend to survive off what resources we have.”

The National Indian Education Association said the cuts to federal impact aid will affect the operation of 710 schools that serve about 115,000 American

Indian students. Those cuts would be immediate because the money is allocated in the same school year it is spent.

In Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation said it is well-poised to handle cuts to its diabetes, housing rehabilitation, Head Start and health care programs. The tribe put a freeze on nonessential hires and halted most travel and training for tribal employees. The tribe’s \$600 million budget for services and programs comes largely from federal funds, but tribal businesses also post annual revenues in the same amount that have been used to fill in gaps, said Principal Chief Bill John Baker.

“What this really is going to boil down to mean is that there won’t be any new purchases, new equipment, and probably we’ll hold our programs but not be in a position to add new programs,” Baker said. “Luckily, we’re in pretty good shape.”

Baker and other tribal leaders have argued against the cuts, saying the federal government has a responsibility that dates back to the signing of treaties to protect American Indian people, their land and tribal sovereignty.

While food distribution, welfare programs and health care services that serve the needy are exempt from the cuts, similar services on reservations aren’t, said Amber Ebarb, a budget and policy analyst for the National Congress of American Indians.

“Tribes have too little political clout, too small numbers for those same protections to be applied,”

she said. “I don’t think it’s the intent of any member of Congress. The ones we hear from, Republicans and Democrats who understand trust and treaty rights, think it’s outrageous that tribes are subject to these across-the-board cuts.”

Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said he doesn’t believe Congress as a whole understands the potential impact to tribes and the duty that federal agencies have to meaningfully consult with them on major actions. He and Republican Rep. Don Young of Alaska are urging their colleagues to spare those populations from automatic budget cuts, particularly when it comes to health care.

“It’s not about creating a niche for American Indians. It’s about addressing areas in which need is great,” Grijalva said.

Clara Pratte, director of the Navajo Nation’s Washington, D.C., office, said regardless of the outcome of the budget talks, tribal leaders should press Congress to make funding for Indian programs mandatory, not discretionary.

Nearly two-thirds of the Navajo Nation’s \$456 million budget comes from federal sources that go to public safety, education, health and human services, roads and infrastructure. The tribe is facing up to \$30 million in automatic budget cuts.

“A lot of these programs go to people that cannot lift themselves up by their bootstraps,” Pratte said. “I’m talking about grandmas, grandpas, kids under the age of 10. We can’t very well expect them to go to work.”

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EVENTS ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at

Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013

All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

MARCH 19
11th Annual Spring Celebration, "Celebrate YOUth." Sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Youth Coalition. 8:30 am-2:00 pm, Beggs High School Dome, 1201 West 9th St., Beggs, OK. Open to all Native Youth and Families. Free with door prizes and lunch. Special youth art contest and submission deadline is 5:00 pm, February 18. For more information: 918-224-9307.

MARCH 19-23
Cherokee Nation offering free admission to museums through Spring Break. For complete museum details and information, call (877) 779-6977 or visit www.CherokeeTourismOK.com.

MARCH 22
2013 Miss, Jr. and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City competition, 6:30 pm at Destiny Christian Center, OKC. Free admission, reception to follow. Info call Shirley 405-632-5227 or swapskineh@sbcglobal.net

Idle No More Rally for Worldwide Water Day, 11 am-1pm at Oklahoma State Capitol South Plaza. All drummers, singers, allies and friends concerned about the environment invited. More info email spiritwomenrawk@yahoo.com

MARCH 23
Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Powwow, National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road, Wichita Falls, Texas. Info call Jim Moore 940-782-7747, redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com or visit www.redriverintertribal.org

All-You-Can-Eat Wild Onion Dinner at Norman First American UMC, 1950 Beaumont Drive, Norman, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adults \$10, Children 10 yrs and under \$5, Students w/ID \$7. Menu: Wild onions, pinto beans, fry bread, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, fried chicken or salt port, dessert, ice tea, lemonade or coffee. For more info, 405.321.5640.

3rd Annual Step-2-Stomp Away Diabetes, One Million Step Challenge, presented by the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. 7:00 pm-11:00 pm, Seminole Nation Mekuskey Mission Gymnasium, SW of City of Seminole, OK. For more information: 405-382-3761 or healthylife@sno-nsn.gov.

MARCH 29-31
Spotted Bird Powwow, Convention Center, 1016 E. Airport Industrial Road, Elk City, OK. Dance and Princess contests. Free admission. For more information: 580-309-1737.

APRIL 1-2
Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, OU Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK. For more information: 405-325-7588.

APRIL 6
Springfield United Methodist Wild Onion Dinner, 2 miles south on hwy 27 from Okemah, then 4 miles east, then 2 miles south. Follow signs. 11am-? All you can eat, \$10 a plate. Kids 12 and under \$5.

American Indian Leadership Youth Council Of Broken Bow Public Schools Spring Pow Wow. Contests, Stickball, Gourd Dancing. For more information please contact: Monica Billy (580) 584-3365 ext. 4069 or Katrina Anderson (580) 236-1280

Oklahoma City University Spring Contest Powwow at Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave. on University campus. Drum contest and dance contests. Doors open at noon. Info call Chris Roman Nose 405-208-5750 or CRomannose@okcu.edu

APRIL 6
7th Annual Spring Contest Powwow, Oklahoma City University, Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave., Oklahoma City, OK. Dance & Drum contests! Gourd Dance: 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm; Dinner, 5:00 pm; Grand Entry: 7:00 pm. For more information: Chris Roman Nose, cromannose@okcu.edu or 405-208-5750.

Ponca Gourd Dance 10th Annual Spring Dance at White Eagle Cultural Center, 5 miles south of Ponca City, OK. (580) 268-3313 or (580) 765-2911

APRIL 13
Rose State College Contest Powwow, RSC Student Center, 6420

Sixtown team keeps tradition, culture alive through stickball

DARREN DeLAUNE
Muscogee Nation News

ARDMORE, Okla. – “Centers, get back to your spots,” Okla Hannali President/Coach Jay Mule yelled to his players during a recent stickball game. “Shooters get up there and block for him.”

Stickball was used as an alternative to settle disputes and disagreements between neighboring town and tribes whom only wanted to use war as a last result. This is how it received the name “little brother of war”.

Today, wars and battles between tribes and towns remain in the history books, however, stickball is still as intense among the teams and tribal members that play it.

Most stickball teams play for their respective tribes or reservations.

Okla Hannali, a.k.a. Sixtown, is a team that does not go by that rule. Sixtown stickball consists of men and women, from tribes such as Choctaw, Mississippi Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, Seminole, Cherokee and Kiowa.

Okla Hannali is an inter-tribal stickball team that began in 2004 when founder Jay Mule (Choctaw) was asked to help facilitate practices for another Native American Club called the Dream Catchers.

Almost immediately, stickball became very popular within the Ardmore community. Over time, what started in Ardmore began spreading to other towns and cities.

“Sixtown is different because, I believe we are the only organized stickball team out here in Oklahoma,” Mule said. “I allowed anyone that wanted to play, to come play. If they wanted to learn this sport that our ancestors played I was very happy for that. It is great that there are other tribes that are interested and want to get involved

and get a better understanding of stickball.”

Sixtown member David Watson (Kiowa/Miss. Choctaw/Okla. Choctaw), or “Smiley Wattz” as he is known among his friends, commented on the tribes that make up the Oklahoma team.

Stickball is played without pads or protective gear like other sports such as football and lacrosse.

There are 30 players on the field at all times for each team. Players know they are going to get hit when playing this sport. Injuries are common. Players have to be carried

“When I am out there playing,” Roberts said. “I am out there representing my tribe, family and Sixtown. I am playing the best that I can. I know everyone else feels the same way. Whatever the outcome is, I know that is the way it has to be.”

Okla Hannali has members all over the state and some outside of Oklahoma. Their ultimate goal is to get to the World Series of Stickball, which is held in Mississippi in July. They also play against other teams in Oklahoma. They also hold training camps and clinics for the youth between practices.

“One thing we want to instill is confidence and pride for our younger culture,” Mule said. “We want them to carry this on after we no longer can play. Not only does stickball help them culturally but it helps them physically as well. We as Native people struggle with a lot of health problems such as diabetes.”

Okla Hannali is considered a new team in this sport but a majority of the members have been playing for a number years.

“It shows how strong this sport is for us,” Roberts adds. “Our ancestors played over 100 years ago and they kept this going by passing it down to the younger generation. We are doing the same thing. It also shows the resiliency we have as Native American people.”

For more information on Okla Hannali, training camps, clinics and practices, contact Jay Mule at 580-340-1672 or Jake Roberts at 918-798-1463.

– Reprinted with permission of Muscogee Nation News



DANIEL ROBERTS | COURTESY PHOTO

Okla Hannali, a.k.a. Sixtown, finishes a New Year’s Day stickball game in Ardmore, Okla.

“This is normal for us,” Watson said. “I love how we have all these tribes together. We are not restricting ourselves to a certain belief or a certain religion that some tribally-sponsored stickball teams do. We are open to everyone’s beliefs. Whoever wants to play stickball and is willing to help get our team better, we want you on our team, regardless of what tribe you belong to.”

off the field at times.

“That is what this is [stickball],” Watson said. “It is the ‘little brother of war’. When you come out here that is what you have to have your mindset on, ‘war’. You have to get your mind right and get your head in the game and do your job for whatever position you play for your team.”

Jake Roberts (Creek/Cherokee), plays shooter for Sixtown.

Amazing races on the Osage Nation Reservation

GENEVA HORSECHIEF-HAMILTON
Osage Nation CX Coordinator

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – In response to record numbers indicating poor health and poor health practices in Oklahoma and specifically Osage County, the Osage Nation is sponsoring an annual event to rival all previous health initiatives on the Osage Reservation.

The nation is taking on obesity, smoking, and nutrition in one fun sweep of events including, a chip monitored 5K race, an amazing race across the reservation’s capital, family fun activities and a down-sized amazing race for youth.

All activities will take place in Pawhuska with the “5K Run For The Health Of It” starting at the Cultural Park, the “Family Fun Day and Littlest Amazing Race” also at the Cultural Park, and a more complex or adult amazing race mapped out across town. Registration for the 5K is scheduled to begin April 1.

“It’s an overall health initiative the tribe is putting on and we want to set the example on being proactive,” said Gail Boe, Osage Nation Communities of Excellence program director. “The nation is aware of the obesity rate. We are in the top ten states in the nation for least healthy communities. We eat fewer fresh fruits and vegetables than any other state.”

The 5K will be divided by age groups and gender. A one mile family fun run/walk will also take place to encourage families and children to start enjoying healthy activities together. The day’s events are free and open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

Call Communities of Excellence, (918)287-5267, for 5K registration information and vendor booth space. Booth space is limited and food vendors are required to provide only healthy food choices. The last day to register for booth space is April 19 at 3 pm.

Call the Clinical/Medical Program, (918)287-5528, for more information about the “Osage Nation Amazing Race For The Health Of It.”



40th Anniversary Wounded Knee and the American Indian Movement Dance Honoring Carter Camp April 20, 2013 White Eagle, OK

Head Staff

Head Singer – Steven Littlecook - Ponca
Head Man Dancer – Damon Roughface, Ponca
Head Lady Dancer – Karen Haymond - Pawnee
Master of Ceremonies – Don Patterson – Tonkawa
Host Gourd – Ponca Gourd Dance Society
Water carriers – Branden Horinek and Louis Faw Faw

Program

2:00 – Gourd Dance
5:30 – Supper Break
6:30 – Gourd Dance
7:00 – War Dance

**A special invitation is extended to the
Tonkawa Gourd Dance Society and the Ponca Hethuska**

Please bring your own dishes and chairs

NATIVE TIMES POWWOW GUIDE

Email your powwow information for the calendar to powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, address and contact info is free. Email or call 918-708-5838 for display advertising rates. Deadline is April 20.

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Ponca City American Legion,
Ponca City, OK
9:00am -4:00pm

TOPICS:
Meth Prevention, Bullying,
Teen Suicide, Self Esteem

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
Special Speakers
Comedy Show
Fun Walk
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Workshops

Lunch and Snacks will be Served

O.N.E.
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All Native American
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580-763-0120

Inside this issue:

- River Spirit announces major expansion
- Pawnee leaders release disbursement info
- Osage committee asks for extension



NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 12

MARCH 29, 2013



Kristina Barker | Rapid City Journal | AP Photo
Kelly Small Bear, left, attends a press conference with her 15-month-old daughter Gabriella Small Bear at the Adobe Eco Hotel in Rapid City, S.D. on Thursday, March 21, 2013. Small Bear's son was taken away from her in February, following health problems related to her son's premature birth a few months prior. Small Bear claims that the state took away her son and used his low birth weight as an excuse to place him in a foster home. She and the son's father, Jonathan Swallow, are fighting for custody.

Tribes file lawsuit against social services

■ The lawsuit contends that hearings are sometimes as short as 60 seconds and parents aren't given the chance to prove their ability to care for their child.

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – South Dakota routinely violates the federal law governing foster care

and adoptions for American Indian children by holding improper hearings after children are removed from homes, two tribes allege in a lawsuit filed Thursday, March 21.
The Oglala Sioux and Rosebud Sioux Tribes, along with three Native American parents, filed the lawsuit in federal court in Rapid City, alleging the state is violating the Indian Child Welfare Act. The lawsuit is part of an ongoing dispute about Native American children in foster care in South Dakota.
Federal law requires that Native

American children removed from homes be placed with relatives or with other Native American families, except in unusual circumstances. Tribal officials contend South Dakota removes too many American Indian children from their homes and then puts them in foster care with non-Indian families.
The lawsuit alleges that when children are removed from a home based on accusations of neglect or abuse, parents aren't given a proper

See TRIBES Continued on Page 4

Tribal leaders join in push for tobacco compact extensions

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – More than 20 Oklahoma tribes have submitted a formal written request to Gov. Mary Fallin for more time to negotiate expiring tobacco compacts.
Signed by 22 tribal leaders Monday, March 18 at a meeting organized by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the letter asks that the negotiation deadline be extended from June 30 to Aug. 30, with current compact rates remaining in effect during the additional two months.

Tobacco compacts for 28 of Oklahoma's 39 federally recognized tribes expire in June. So far, only one tribe, the Kaw Nation, has signed a new compact. It takes effect July 1.
"There were a number of things considered before the leaders decided to use this method," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said. "The meeting revolved around the ability to have good faith

negotiations and test the waters for extensions.
"We feel that as much as tribes are contributing economically to the state, this is another message we wanted to send and see how serious the state looks at tribal governments. We feel adamant that there are a lot of things we are doing to impact the state of Oklahoma."
After signing a tobacco compact last year, Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials scheduled the inter-tribal meeting to share their



Jeff Haozous, Fort Sill Apache Chairman, signed the request in a gesture of solidarity. The Fort Sill Apache is one of nine in the state without a tobacco compact.

See TOBACCO Continued on Page 4

Cobell Scholarship money on its way

BRANDON ECOFFEY
Native Sun News

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced last week that American Indian College fund in partnership with the American Indian Graduate Center will be the two organizations responsible for the distribution of the Cobell scholarship monies.
In a statement from the Department of Interior, Secretary Ken Salazar spoke of the importance of the scholarship fund and why these two highly respected organizations were chosen.
"This Scholarship Fund for Native American students will be a lasting, meaningful legacy of the Cobell Settlement that will help strengthen Indian communities, advance tribal progress and secure a better future for the First Americans," Salazar said. "In selecting these qualified organizations and in seeking the best trustees to oversee this educational fund, we are honoring Eloise Cobell and helping to empower Indian Country," he added.
The Secretary's decision to use the AICF and the AIGC came after receiving nominations from the lead plaintiff in the Cobell case and after receiving advice



Eloise Cobell

from a selection committee made up of Interior policy advisors, the office of the Solicitor and the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.
As part of the historic \$3.4 billion Cobell settlement, \$1.9 billion was set aside for a tribal land buy-back program. The buy-back program was established for tribal governments to purchase fractionalized trust lands from individual tribal members on reservations across the country. The funds will be disbursed based upon the amount of fractionalized trust land within a given reservation. As an incentive for tribes to take part in the buyback program a small portion of each transaction will be allocated to the scholarship program. The DOI is authorized by the

See MONEY Continued on Page 4

Feds say Native Mob gang dented but work remains

STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – Federal prosecutors say they've weakened a violent American Indian gang known for terrorizing people in the Upper Midwest now that an alleged leader and two members have been convicted in one of the largest gang cases to come out of Indian Country.
But investigators acknowledge their work isn't done in Minnesota or other states where the Native Mob is active,

noting that the gang has been around for a long time.
"We have some conservative confidence that we did put a dent (in the gang) but we're also very realistic and know that law enforcement will continue to pursue gang activity including the Native Mob," Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Winter said after jurors handed down convictions Tuesday on an array of racketeering and other charges.
"The verdicts reflect the seriousness of the crimes that were being

committed by the Native Mob, which includes not only drug trafficking, but discharging of firearms at innocent people, and trafficking firearms, and basically wreaking havoc through communities throughout the state of Minnesota," he said.
A federal jury in Minneapolis convicted the alleged Native Mob leader, 34-year-old Wakinyon Wakan McArthur, on drug and weapons charges – but also on a charge of

See MOB Continued on Page 5

Panel endorses Jewell for DOI chief

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Senate Energy Committee on Thursday endorsed President Barack Obama's nomination of Sally Jewell to be Interior secretary, moving her nomination to the Senate floor for an expected vote next month.
The committee's 19-3 vote in favor of Jewell came after current Interior Secretary Ken Salazar agreed to review a decision blocking construction of a gravel road through a wildlife refuge to provide access to an all-weather airport in rural Alaska.
Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, had threatened to hold up Jewell's nomination unless the Obama



PHOTO COURTESY NATIVE SUN NEWS
President Barack Obama nominated Sally Jewell (left), a lifelong outdoors enthusiast, to succeed Ken Salazar as Interior Secretary. Jewell is known as a biker, skier and mountain climber.

See JEWELL Continued on Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES
The Cherokee Hard Rock Hotel and Casino's newly completed tower features 100 guest suites across 10 floors. The property now boasts 454 rooms, tying the downtown Hyatt Regency for most rooms in the Tulsa metro area.

Cherokees complete 3rd Hard Rock Hotel tower

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CATOOSA, Okla. – A \$252 million expansion project is now complete on Hard Rock Hotel and Casino's third tower

With the new unnamed tower, which features 100 suites across 10 floors, the Cherokee Nation property now has 454 rooms, placing it in a tie with the downtown Hyatt Regency for most rooms in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The structure replaces an area that was damaged during a February 2011 blizzard.

"They're almost as big as

two hotel rooms," Principal Chief Bill John Baker said of the new guest rooms. "I haven't spent the night in them but they're very nice.

"This means we can bid on additional conventions. It means on those nights where we had to send people away, we won't have to."

The new tower also features a two-story non-smoking gaming floor with 500 electronic games, 15 table games, a food court, a bar and a poker room.

Cherokee Nation's third completed casino expansion within the last year, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino employs 1,500 people.

Comanche tribe starts work on hotel for casino

DEVOL, Okla. (AP) – The Comanche Nation has begun construction on a hotel to go with a casino in Cotton County just north of the Red River in south Oklahoma.

The Comanche Red River Casino in Devol opened 10 years ago. The Times Record News reports that dirt turned Friday marks the start of work on what will be an 87-room hotel.

Casino CEO Chas Robbins says it should

take nine or 10 months to complete construction. The rooms will vary in bed size and amenities. The hotel's interior will feature artwork by Comanche artists.

Comanche Nation Tribal Chairman Wallace Coffey says the proximity to the town of Burkburnett is significant because of the Comanche Nation's history with North Texas. He says the tribe had a history of trading in the community.

Creek Nation announces addition of Margaritaville Casino, restaurant

TULSA, Okla. – River Spirit Casino announced last week its plans for a development project that will feature a Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant, a 22-story 500-room upscale hotel tower, a world class spa, convention and meeting center and more new restaurants.

Officials say the project will create approximately 800 new full-time jobs and have a combined annual economic impact of \$135.4 million on Tulsa and the surrounding area. The annual payroll for the new jobs is estimated at \$38 million.

The project promises to be the largest private Arkansas River development in Tulsa's history.

"We at River Spirit and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are committed to providing quality jobs, and economic stability for Tulsa-area residents," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos CEO Pat Crofts said.

Perhaps best known for his music, which often portrays an island escape lifestyle, singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett said he was "honored" to be associated with River Spirit and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's new entertainment complex.

"I am happy to bring a few palm trees and frozen concoctions to the banks of the Arkansas River," Buffett said.

The 500-room luxury hotel will feature VIP suites, junior suites, parlor suites and standard rooms. There will be an outdoor and indoor swimming pool, fitness center, a world class

spa and a pool deck overlooking the Arkansas River. In addition, there will be a 24-hour business center, retail stores and gift shops.

"With the addition of a luxury hotel tower and the Margaritaville brand, we are taking River Spirit Casino to a whole new level," Crofts said. "We already have an incredible facility, but this development allows us to become a true destination resort."

The Margaritaville Restaurant, Bar and Retail addition will provide guests with the ultimate tropical experience complete with salty margaritas, island-inspired food and lively entertainment. The bar and restaurant will also include large decks where guests may enjoy alfresco dining or a cocktail with a gentle breeze while overlooking the river.

"Our primary goal is to make sure our guests have fun and enjoy the experience," Crofts said. "This new development will put Tulsa on the entertainment map and attract people from neighboring states."

Approximately 45,000 square feet of new gaming space will be branded as the Margaritaville Casino and include up to 750 electronic gaming devices and 20 table games. The area's décor, atmosphere and gaming will reflect the Margaritaville escapism lifestyle with entry portals situated adjacent to the Margaritaville Restaurant, bar and retail complex.

"I'm excited about our partnership with Margaritaville," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George

Tiger. "This is a great future for both groups. Our history in Indian Gaming and the experience Margaritaville will offer those who visit will make this a premier destination resort."

A Margaritaville-branded showroom theatre will offer theatre-style seating for up to 2,400 people, plus separate VIP suites, a lounge, bar and reception areas for a total seating of approximately 2,500.

"The construction of this exciting project alone is expected to bring a \$225 million dollar economic impact during the 18-24 months of building," said Mike Neal, Tulsa Regional Chamber president and CEO. "This impacts each of us, from the small business vendors supplying materials to the construction worker who shops at our local grocery stores and retailers."

The development will include a special events venue offering 35,000 square feet of convention and meeting space with seating for 750 to 1,000 people. It will also offer state-of-the-art audio and video capabilities.

Chief Tiger told Native Times that the project was a good mesh with Riverwalk Crossing, a retail development venture located across the Arkansas River the tribe purchased last year.

"We're solidifying ourselves to be at the top again," Tiger said, then hinted that there is more to come. "But that's off the record," he said with a grin.



RENDERING COURTESY MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
An architectural rendering shows the completed River Spirit expansion project which includes a 500-room luxury hotel; Margaritaville branded restaurant, bar and retail complex; additional gaming space; a world-class spa; entertainment venue and shopping.

As casinos struggle, tribes seek more federal aid

MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

LEDYARD, Conn. (AP) – Once the envy of Indian Country for its billion-dollar casino empire, the tribe that owns the Foxwoods Resort Casino has been struggling through a financial crisis and pursuing more revenue from an unlikely source: U.S. government grants.

The money provided annually to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation through the Interior Department and the Department of Health and Human Services has risen over the last five years to more than \$4.5 million, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act. One former tribal employee says department leaders were encouraged to offset dwindling resources by seeking more federal grants.

The Pequots, who once distributed stipends exceeding \$100,000 annually to adult members, are not alone among gaming tribes seeking more federal aid. Several, including the owner of Foxwoods' rival Connecticut casino, the Mohegan Sun, say they have been pursuing more grants – a trend that critics find galling because the law that gave rise to Indian casinos was intended to help tribes become financially self-sufficient.

"The whole purpose of the 1988 law which authorized Indian casinos was to help federally-recognized tribes raise money to run their governments by building casinos on their reservations,"

said Robert Steele, a former Congressman from Connecticut. "I would argue strongly that federal money was meant for struggling tribes. Certainly the Mashantucket Pequots and the Mohegans couldn't under any circumstances be put in that category."

As long as they have federal recognition, casino-owning tribes are eligible for the same grant programs as the larger tribes based on large, poverty-stricken reservations in the American West. The grants, which don't need to be paid back, support tribal governments by paying for programs such as health screenings, road maintenance and environmental preservation.

"The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation is proud of the work they do with the use of federal funds when it comes to assisting the region and fellow Native Americans," said Bill Satti, a tribal spokesman, who said the grants have supported the tribe's medical clinic and repair work on local roadways.

Thomas Weissmuller, who was chief judge of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court until 2011, said that near the end of his tenure the tribal council said they had distributed too much money to members and urged department leaders to pursue more federal grants. He said there was resistance from some council members, who raised questions about the effects on sovereignty, but he was personally encouraged to pursue grants by officials including the tribal chairman, Rodney Butler.

Weissmuller said he was not comfortable seeking such assistance for the tribal court system because

most of the issues it dealt with were related to the casino, which is essentially a commercial enterprise.

"A billion-dollar gaming enterprise should fully fund the tribal government," said Weissmuller, who said that he was forced out of the job by tribal officials who told him he did not appear to have the tribe's interests at heart on other matters.

The reversal of fortunes for the Pequots began around 2008, when Foxwoods completed a major, costly expansion with the 30-story MGM Grand hotel and casino just

○

"A billion-dollar gaming enterprise should fully fund the tribal government," said Thomas Weissmuller, who said that he was forced out of his job as chief judge by Mashantucket Pequot tribal officials who told him he did not appear to have the tribe's interests at heart on other matters

○

as the recession began to show its teeth. The following year the tribe defaulted on debt exceeding \$2 billion.

Since then, the tribe of some 900 people in rural southeastern Connecticut has ended its member stipends. The Pequots have kept some other benefits in place, covering payments for members pursuing higher education and offering supplemental pay for tribal members taking entry-level jobs at the casino.

The federal grants provided to the Pequots through the Interior Department and its Bureau of Indian Affairs, meanwhile, rose from \$1 million in 2008 to \$2.7

million in 2011, with partial records for 2012 showing \$1.7 million in grants for the year. Grants provided to the Pequots through the Indian Health Service, a division of Health and Human Services, increased gradually from \$1.7 million in 2008 to \$1.9 million in 2012. That money is to support health care services such as community health, nutrition, substance abuse treatment and pharmacy services.

The federal money opened the door to scrutiny by the FBI, whose investigation of tribal finances led to the January indictments of the tribe's treasurer, Steven Thomas,

○

and his brother Michael Thomas, a former tribal chairman. The two are accused of stealing a combined \$800,000 in tribal money and federal grants. The tribal council has expressed full confidence in its treasurer.

Mohegan Tribe officials said they took pride in refusing federal grants for years, in acknowledgment that there were needier tribes. But tribal officials said they had relaxed that position as their Mohegan Sun casino, like Foxwoods, has faced growing gambling competition from neighboring states.

"It's a sign of the times. Everybody is" seeking grants, Mohegan Chairman Bruce "Two Dogs"

Bozsum said. "There's some that we qualify for and it helps us to keep everybody healthy and working. At the end of the day, why shouldn't we apply for it? If we get approved, it's always for a good cause, usually health or jobs created."

Tribal officials said they receive modest grants to contribute to the cost of health care for their 2,000 members.

The tribe that owns the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Michigan, one of the country's largest Indian casinos outside of Connecticut, has been aggressively pursuing grants in areas including environmental protection and health services as it struggles with the weak economy, according to Sylvia Murray, grants and contracts manager for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Sam Deloria, director of the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, N.M., said he has no issue with tribes pursuing grants for which they are eligible. It's no different, he said, from the state of Alaska participating in federal programs despite the annual payouts to residents from the state's oil savings account.

As the federal money reflects financial distress for gaming tribes, however, he does worry that their struggles ultimately could have a ripple effect throughout Indian Country and affect the ability of tribes to participate in the marketplace.

"It has got to raise a set of issues that either in the courts, or in the Congress, or in the marketplace, eventually it will get people looking at tribal participation in business in a different light," he said.

DUI on tribal land not a state matter

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – The Kansas Supreme Court has ordered state revenue officials to reinstate the driver’s license of a man arrested for drunken driving on an Indian reservation.

The court ruled Friday that the Kansas law allowing the Department of Revenue to suspend the licenses of drivers with certain blood-alcohol levels only applies to arrests made by officers of the state on roadways “in the state.”

The ruling came in the case of an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation arrested for DUI by a tribal officer on the northeast Kansas reservation. Normally, the state would not have learned of the arrest, but the tribal officer for some reason sent a report to the Revenue Department.

The Supreme Court ruled the Revenue Department had no role in the case because the reservation is sovereign land.

Kan. immigration hearing draws emotional response

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – An emotional crowd gathered for a House committee hearing on a measure that seeks to repeal in-state tuition for Kansas students without legal residency.

The measure under consideration in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee would repeal the nearly 10-year-old statute that allows students who graduate from Kansas high schools and have lived in Kansas for at least three years to pay in-state tuition at state universities and community colleges, regardless of their residency status, The Topeka Capital-Journal reported Wednesday.

Kim Voth, a Wichita school counselor, said that before coming to testify before the committee, she spoke with one of her students who used the in-state tuition law to get an education degree and has since become a U.S. citizen and a teacher.

“I asked her what I should say today,” Voth said, beginning to cry. “She got very quiet, then said, ‘Please tell them that my college degree changed my life.’”



“I think it’s funny, Mr. Kobach, because when you mention illegal immigrant, I think of all of you,” said Rep. Ponka-We Victors, D-Wichita, the lone Native American in the Legislature

Fred Logan, of the Kansas Board of Regents, said more than 500 of the 630 immigrants currently accessing

in-state tuition attend community colleges. He said the 2004 law treats students without legal status fairly.

Republican Secretary of State Kris Kobach, the repeal bill’s chief proponent, argued that natives of foreign countries who follow the legal process of getting student visas to attend Kansas universities have to pay out-of-state tuition.

“I think that is an absurd reverse incentive,” Kobach said. “If you follow the law, we’re charging you three times more.”

The biggest response from the crowded gallery came when Rep. Ponka-We Victors, D-Wichita, ended a series of questions to Kobach.

“I think it’s funny, Mr. Kobach, because when you mention illegal immigrant, I think of all of you,” said Victors, the lone Native American in the Legislature.

People in the gallery then applauded, which is rare in such hearings. The committee did not take action on the bill.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

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News from the crossroads of Indian Country



Chippewa Cree chairman suspended by council

HAVRE, Mont. (AP) – The Chippewa Cree’s governing council has suspended the tribe’s chairman on allegations of neglect and misconduct, but Ken St. Marks says the body took action against him because of his cooperation with a federal corruption investigation.

St. Marks was suspended for allegedly violating his duty, a lack of ethical responsibility and a disregard for the obligations he assumed upon his election in November, a statement released Friday by the Chippewa Cree Business Council said.

The statement directly addressed St. Marks, saying, “the roles and duties you violated are of great importance in the administration of public office and breach renders you unfit to continue to hold office.”

The statement did not detail the

alleged wrongdoing and the council did not respond to requests for additional information.

St. Marks refused to leave the tribal offices Friday and about 100 people gathered there to support him.

“I was elected by the people,” St. Marks told the Havre Daily News. “Only the people should fire me.”

St. Marks said his political opponents were trying to get rid of him because he has been working with the federal government on an investigation into alleged corruption on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation.

Tribal police told the crowd to leave by the end of business Friday. During the day, several supporters complained about alleged corruption and fiscal mismanagement on the reservation.

Corruption may be costing the tribe millions of dollars, St. Marks said.

He received a \$16 million bill from a Florida firm that had something to do with the failed construction of a hotel adjacent to the Northern Winds Casino, but has not been able to determine what work was done, he said.

Several people said they were concerned about the amount of money spent on the annual rodeo and its powwow, saying that money could be better spent to help the needy on the poor reservation.

The protesters were preparing a legal challenge to St. Marks’ suspension.

The suspended chairman will have the chance to respond to the council’s allegations Monday at tribal headquarters.



PHOTO COURTESY HAVRE DAILY NEWS
Ken St. Marks, Chippewa Cree Chairman is escorted from tribal property after being suspended by the tribe’s governing council last week.

JEWELL

Continued from Page 1

administration agreed to a land exchange that would allow the road, which would grant access to an all-weather airport for the remote community of King Cove, on the Bering Sea in southwestern Alaska.

Under the agreement, Interior will review an environmental analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that concluded the road could be harmful to geese and other waterfowl that fly through the refuge on their way to warmer climates. Murkowski says the report didn’t adequately consider

the importance of protecting human health and safety.

As part of the agreement, an assistant Interior secretary will visit King Cove and tour the site of the proposed road. If confirmed as Interior secretary, Jewell also will tour the site, most likely this summer, Murkowski said.

Salazar never visited King Cove before rejecting the road, a point of contention for Murkowski and other Alaska lawmakers.

“Secretary Jewell will have the undeniable privilege of going to King Cove, and I will be there with her,” Murkowski told reporters after the brief committee meeting. “We may have to fly to (nearby) Cold Bay and walk, but that’s OK. She’s a hiker,” Murkowski said.

Even with the road dispute tentatively settled, Jewell faces other obstacles to confirmation. Several senators who voted to advance her nomination, including Murkowski, said they reserved the right to oppose her on the Senate floor.

Jewell, the CEO of outdoor retailer REI, was nominated last month to replace Salazar as Interior chief, overseeing more than 500 million acres of national parks and other public lands, and more than 1 billion acres offshore. The lands are used for a range of purposes, including energy development, mining and recreation. The department also provides services to 566 federally recognized Indian tribes.

Jewell, 57, of Seattle, previously worked as a petroleum engineer and banker. A lifelong outdoors enthusiast, Jewell is known as a biker, skier and mountain climber and served on the board of the National Parks Conservation Association, an advocacy group that works to protect and enhance national parks.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said he was concerned that Jewell claimed ignorance about a series of lawsuits filed by the parks group, which has sought to block a federal law allowing firearms in national parks and to stop development of coal mines and other energy production.

Jewell’s service on the NCPA’s board poses a

potential conflict of interest, Barrasso and other GOP senators said. Jewell told the committee at a hearing this month that she played no role in the lawsuits.

Republican Sens. Jim Risch of Idaho and Dean Heller of Nevada said they would push Jewell to refrain from listing the sage grouse as an endangered species. Offering protections for the bird under the Endangered Species Act could severely restrict ranching, grazing, mining and other activities on public land in their states, the senators said.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chairman of the energy panel, said Jewell had pledged to work collaboratively with lawmakers from both parties to resolve a range of issues.

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Cherokee Nation history and humanities course now offered

JULIE HUBBARD
Cherokee Nation News Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The Cherokee Nation history course has been expanded to include more information on culture and history, which will complement teachings on the tribe’s historical timeline. Renamed the “Cherokee Nation Humanities and History Course,” the improved curriculum kicked off Thursday in Delaware County. The next class will be April 9 in Fort Smith, Ark.

Cherokee citizens Roy Hamilton, a genealogist, and Catherine Foreman-Gray, a Cherokee historian, direct the course.

The public will learn about the Cherokee experience, ranging from pre-contact with Europeans, all the way through the Indian Removal Act, to our current vibrant government and day-to-day life. A focus on culture, such as dance, architecture, oral history and storytelling, is also part of the interactive course.

“We will be working with Cherokee artists and elders as well as noted historians and authors to help teach some of these classes,” Foreman-Gray said. “Roy and I are passionate about our history, and our goal is to bring that same passion to all of our classes. While we both have our individual areas of expertise, we understand the need to showcase the best and brightest minds for each topic. For that reason,

we will be inviting guest speakers from time to time who are premier experts in their fields. It will be such a treat for our students to learn from those who are authorities on Cherokee history, law and culture.”

Foreman-Gray is a cultural specialist for Cherokee Nation and a graduate of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith with a degree in history, emphasis in historical interpretation. She worked as a park ranger for the Fort Smith National Historic Site and interpretive supervisor and archivist with Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism.

Hamilton served on the Cherokee National Historical Society board for eight years. He was the president of the board in 2005-06. He is also a former interim executive director of the Cherokee Heritage Center and founded the Cherokee Arts & Humanities Council, Inc. He is a Northeastern State University graduate.

“This course will offer all sides of the Cherokee story,” Hamilton said. “We aren’t here to give one interpretation or tell people to think a certain way. We want them to take what we offer and walk away with their own interpretation.”

The course is broken up into seven, three-hour classes, covering a variety of topics that can be taken independently from each other in an attempt to encourage a lifelong learning process. After completing 21 hours a certificate will be awarded. Time invested

beyond that will receive recognition appropriately.

“People are happy they can still earn credit while attending classes that interest them the most,” Foreman-Gray said. “Not everyone is interested in learning about Cherokees and the Civil War, but they would love to attend a class on Southeast Indian Culture and Design. What I expect, or hope will happen, is that people will become interested in learning about different areas of our history as we transition from one class to the next.”

Those unable to attend classes will still find plenty of resources online, including interviews with the artists, elders, historians and authors.

Classes were recently held in Phoenix; Seattle; Portland, Ore.; and Eugene, Ore., and started last Thursday within the 14-county tribal jurisdiction.

For more complete course dates and locations call 918-453-5289 or visit www.cnhistoryonline.org.

The next course, with the topic of Southeast Indian Culture and Design, will be available from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the following location:

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
University of Arkansas Fort Smith
Baldor Technology Center
Boreham Conference Center, Rm 101
5100 Kinkead Ave
Fort Smith, AR 72913

The courses are free to attend.

TOBACCO

Continued from Page 1

negotiating experiences with other tribal leaders who are facing expiring compacts.

State Rep. Jerry McPeak (D-Warner), a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who was one of the facilitators of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s tobacco compact talks, also helped with last week’s meeting.

“We wanted to share the experiences we’ve had with negotiations so far,” McPeak said. “This shared knowledge and experience will hopefully make our tribes stronger in their ability to deal with the state.”

Among the larger tribes represented at the meeting was the Osage Nation, which sold more than 3.5 million packs of cigarettes in 2011. About one-third of those sales were at a reduced border tax rate. State representatives have maintained that they do not want to keep border rates, which provide lower tax rates for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Arkansas, Kansas or Missouri, which have lower tobacco taxes than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops.

“We want to be unified in our efforts in the renegotiation and ensure all are treated fairly,” Osage Chief John Red Eagle said.

Jeff Haozous, Chairman of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, headquartered in Apache, was among those signing the letter. With about 700 enrolled citizens, the tribe is one of nine in Oklahoma that does not have a tobacco compact. Haozous said he signed the letter in a show of solidarity.

“My signature was not a reflection of our tribe’s formal position,” Haozous said. “For that, I would need authorization by our business committee. It was my own expression of support for the other tribes and their leaders.”

Aaron Cooper, a spokesman for Gov. Fallin’s office, said late last Wednesday that the governor had received the letter but would not comment on it until after reviewing it.

The letter’s signers have asked for a response by April 3.

“One single strand of horse hair isn’t strong, but 20 is,” McPeak said. “I hope these leaders can present a united front.”

TRIBES

Continued from Page 1

hearing to determine whether a child should be kept away longer. Many Native Americans who leave the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indian reservations move to Pennington County, which is home to Rapid City, and the lawsuit seeks class-action status for all Native American parents and custodians who are members of federally recognized tribes there.

The lawsuit contends that hearings are sometimes as short as 60 seconds and parents aren’t given the chance to introduce evidence showing their ability to care for the child or to question the state.

“If South Dakota officials would have the kind of hearing that is required by federal law, many of the Indian children who are being taken away from their parents would be returned,” said Stephen Pevar, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union’s Racial Justice Program working with the tribes on the case.

The plaintiffs are seeking an order directing state officials to provide “adequate” and “meaningful” hearings.

The removal of Native American children in South

Dakota has been an ongoing issue, and tribal and federal leaders are planning a summit to discuss foster care in the state. State officials have acknowledged that a disproportionate number of Native American children are involved in the child welfare system. But they said that is because they receive more referrals for alleged abuse involving Native American children, leading to more investigations and removals of children from homes.

The lawsuit names as defendants Department of Social Services Secretary Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Department of Social Services employee LuAnn Van Hunnik, Pennington County State’s Attorney Mark Vargo and 7th Judicial Circuit Court Presiding Judge Jeff Davis.

Vargo did not immediately return messages seeking comment. A representative for the Department of Social Services said the agency has not received any information about the lawsuit and did not have a comment. Davis also said he could not comment.

Bryan Brewer, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said more than half of the children removed from homes in Pennington County are members of his

tribe.

Brewer said that while tribal members realize children sometimes need to be removed from homes to protect them, “all too often over the years, South Dakota state officials have a history of unwarranted and unnecessary long-term removal of Indian children from Indian families.”

Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 because of the once high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by public and private agencies.

Brewer said that when state officials remove children without proof of neglect into non-Indian homes, the Native American children suffer emotional trauma, anxiety and depression.

“For years Pennington County, courts, judges and the Pennington County’s attorney have allowed the state of South Dakota and the Department of Social Services to take children – Indian and non-Indian – from their homes and family and place them in foster homes for months at a time, without requiring the state to produce any meaningful evidence in a fair and meaningful hearing,” Brewer said. “This is an abuse of state power.”

MONEY

Continued from Page 1

settlement to set aside up to \$60 million for the scholarship fund.

The scholarship fund money will be divided in an 80/20 split between the two organizations with the American Indian College Fund receiving the majority of the dollars and the American Indian Graduate Center slated to receive the latter.

“We are honored to have been selected to administer the largest scholarship fund ever established on behalf American Indian and Alaska Native students,” said Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund. “I look forward to working with the American Indian Graduate Center to provide greater opportunities for higher education to the next generation of Indian leaders and professionals,” she added.

Established in 1989 AICF is the Nation’s largest American Indian scholarship organization. During the 2011 school year the organization provided more than 4,000 scholarships to Native students across the country.

“American Indian and Alaska Native communities experience a tremendous restoration of our abundant lifestyles when our people get an education. In today’s society, access to postsecondary education is essential to our prosperity. The Cobell Education Fund will help us support more students to achieve their educational dreams,” said Dr. Crazy Bull.

The decision to include the American Indian Graduate Center as part of the scholarship disbursement process is seen as an important move in advancing both the educational opportunities of Native people across the country and the potential for tribes to further develop their own professionals to advocate on their behalf. The AIGC is located in Albuquerque and specializes in providing money for Native students who are looking to pursue graduate level degrees.

“The American Indian Graduate Center is happy to congratulate the American Indian College Fund and knows it will do a great job as it has done over the years. We extend our offer of cooperation and support and look forward to working with the Fund,” said Sam

Deloria head of the AIGC.

The first round of Cobell payments went to tribal members who had individual trust land accounts held by the federal government and whose accounts were actively being used prior to Sept. 30, 2009.

“I fully support Cobell settlement money advancing higher education for Indian students. When we look honestly at the settlement from an individual basis it’s apparent that the first series of checks were spent as fast as people could cash them with little impact on tribal economies or long lasting impact on family budgets,” said Ryan Wilson, an Oglala Lakota and the former head of the National Indian Education Association. “By investing in education we will see a lasting legacy from Cobell and the tribes that mobilize their citizens to take advantage of this opportunity will see long term benefits from these scholarships in both their tribal communities and the strengthened families who will acquire a sharpened set of skills.”

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Claims Filing Deadline Extended to: May 1, 2013

For a claims package or for help filing a claim contact

Alicia Seyler, Farm Advocate
918.699.9850 or 202.276.2634
farmadvocate@gmail.com

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Interested applicants please apply at www.cherokee.org

Cherokee Nation
Human Resources Department
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 453-5292 or 453-5050

Employment will be contingent upon drug test results. Indian preference is considered.

Substance Abuse Counselor

Provides prevention, education and direct services to children, adolescents, adults and the Tribal community affected by alcohol and/or drug dependency. Educates families in the most useful ways to interact with individuals experiencing substance dependency issues, diversion tactics and cultural activities. Must have knowledge of the unique cultural, economic and social aspects of an Indian population. May be required to work beyond the customary 40 hour work week or eight hour day in certain situations, and at times, not considered "normal working" hours. Must have current Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) certification and thorough knowledge of the Twelve-Step recovery model, as well as other contemporary and traditional models of recovery/rehabilitation for Native Americans dependency issues. For more details of the position or for an application, please see our website at: www.omtribe.org.

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe is an equal Opportunity Employer. Native American preference will be observed. Please submit employment application to: Human Resources 8151 Hwy 177 Red Rock, OK. 74651 by 4:30 p.m. April 3, 2013 or email to: hr@omtribe.org. An application form can be found at www.omtribe.org (Human Resources/Forms). Resumes are accepted but will not substitute for application.

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40th Anniversary

Wounded Knee and the American Indian Movement Dance

Honoring Carter Camp

April 20, 2013

White Eagle, OK

Head Staff

Head Singer – Steven Littlecook - Ponca

Head Man Dancer – Damon Roughface, Ponca

Head Lady Dancer – Karen Haymond - Pawnee

Master of Ceremonies – Don Patterson – Tonkawa

Host Gourd – Ponca Gourd Dance Society

Water carriers – Branden Horinek and Louis Faw Faw

Program

2:00 – Gourd Dance

5:30 – Supper Break

6:30 – Gourd Dance

7:00 – War Dance

A special invitation is extended to the

Tonkawa Gourd Dance Society and the Ponca Hethuska

Please bring your own dishes and chairs

NATIVE TIMES POWWOW GUIDE

Email your powwow information for the calendar to powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, address and contact info is free. Email or call 918-708-5838 for display advertising rates. Deadline is April 20.

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on the American Indian

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April 8-13, 2013

MONDAY, APRIL 8

EVENING EVENTS
American Indian Symposium Film Series
Titles: TBA
7 - 9 p.m. Webb Auditorium

TUESDAY APRIL 9

EVENING EVENTS
American Indian Symposium Film Series
Killing Stereotypes: Assassin's Creed and Natives in Popular Culture
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Webb Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

ALL DAY EVENTS
OSU Oral History Project
Julie Little Thunder
Native Veteran Interviews
Webb Technology TV Studio

MORNING ASSEMBLY
Opening Ceremony
Host: Native American Student Association
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Keynote address:
Charles "Chief" Boyd, Architect
Cherokee Heritage Center 50th Anniversary
10 - 10:50 a.m., Rozell Ballroom B

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

AFTERNOON SESSIONS
Keynote address:
Dr. Daniel Littlefield
1 - 1:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom B

Keynote address:
Dr. Daniel Wildcat
2 - 2:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom B

Hearing Tests:
Walk-In Screenings
Dr. Karen Patterson
2 - 5 p.m., UC 222

Paper Document Preservation Workshop
Vickie Sheffler
3 - 3:50 p.m., Morgan Room

Panel Discussion
Cherokee Scholars Series
3 - 3:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom

Cultural Event
Traditional Stickball
2 - 4:00 p.m. Beta Field

Open House
Indigenous Scholar Development Center
Scholar Presentations
Miss NASA Reception
4 - 5:30 p.m.

EVENING EVENTS
American Indian Symposium Film Series
Bunky Echo-Hawk Age-old Technology
Meets Pop Culture
7 - 9 p.m. Webb Auditorium

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

MORNING ASSEMBLY
General Assembly
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Panel Presentation:
Chickasaw Nation Communications & Creative Services
Title: TBA
10:30 - 11:20 a.m., Herb Rozell Ballroom B

NOON
AISES Luncheon w/Speaker
Chris Samples, Redstone Construction
Title: TBA
11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom A
TICKET REQUIRED

EVENING EVENTS
Indigenous Languages Documentation & Revitalization Seminar Opening Session
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald & Team
6 - 8 p.m. Morgan Rm

Cultural Activity
Indian Marbles Exhibition Game
7 - 9 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

ALL DAY EVENTS
Indigenous Languages Documentation & Revitalization Seminar
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald & Dr. Brad Montgomery-Anderson
Immersion for Native Languages
8 - 5 p.m. UC Morgan Rm

MORNING ASSEMBLY
General Assembly
10:15 - 10:30 a.m., Rozell BR
Keynote address:
50 Years of Technology at the Cherokee Heritage Center
10:30 - 11:20 a.m., Rozell Ballroom B

NOON
Cherokee Heritage Center Luncheon w/ Storyteller Robert Lewis
11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m., Rozell Ballroom A
TICKET REQUIRED

EVENING EVENTS
NSU Powwow
6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Rozell BR
Head Staff:
Kelly Anquoe, MC
Stanley John, AD
Joel Deerinwater,
Head Singer
Thorpe Sine,
Head Man Dancer

Erica Pretty Eagle Moore,
Head Lady Dancer
Adam Proctor,
Head Gourd Dancer
Cherokee Nation Color Guard

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

ALL DAY EVENTS
Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages (OWNAL) (ends Sunday noon)
8 - 5 p.m. UC Morgan Rm
Guest Scholar:
Dr. Paula Munro
Distinguished Professor of Linguistics, UCLA

GOULD DANCING
2:00 p.m.

BREAK
Powwow Dinner
5 - 6:30 p.m.

EVENING EVENTS
NSU Powwow
7 - 12 p.m. Rozell BR

www.nsuok.edu/symposium

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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: Lisa@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Language Class, Spring semester, through April 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at

Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013

All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

MARCH 27
“Bacone Impact” event, Bacone Student Life Center, 2412 East Shawnee Road, Muskogee, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Learn academic opportunities and 100% tuition scholarships available to Native American students at Bacone. More info call Clint Sago, American Indian Recruitment, 918-360-5938 or sagoc@bacone.edu

MARCH 29-31
Spotted Bird Powwow, Convention Center, 1016 E. Airport Industrial Road, Elk City, OK. Dance and Princess contests. Free admission. For more information: 580-309-1737.

APRIL 1-2
Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, OU Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK. For more information: 405-325-7588.

APRIL 6
Kiowa Indian Council meeting at 10am in Red Buffalo Hall at the Kiowa Complex in Carnegie OK. The event will be streamed live on www.kiowatribe.org beginning shortly before 10am. Go to “media”, then click on “video”. The video will be archived on the Tribal website for future viewing.

Springfield United Methodist Wild Onion Dinner, 2 miles south on hwy 27 from Okemah, then 4 miles east, then 2 miles south. Follow signs. 11am-? All you can eat, \$10 a plate. Kids 12 and under \$5.

American Indian Leadership Youth Council Of Broken Bow Public Schools Spring Pow Wow. Contests, Stickball, Gourd Dancing. For more information please contact: Monica Billy (580) 584-3365 ext. 4069 or Katrina Anderson (580) 236-1280

Oklahoma City University Spring Contest Powwow at Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave. on University campus. Drum contest and dance contests. Doors open at noon. Info call Chris Roman Nose 405-208-5750 or CRomannose@okcu.edu

7th Annual Spring Contest Powwow, Oklahoma City University, Freede Wellness Center, NW 27th & Florida Ave., Oklahoma City, OK. Dance & Drum contests! Gourd Dance: 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm; Dinner, 5:00 pm; Grand Entry: 7:00 pm. For more information: Chris Roman Nose, cromannnose@okcu.edu or 405-208-5750.

Ponca Gourd Dance 10th Annual Spring Dance at White Eagle Cultural Center, 5 miles south of Ponca City, OK. (580) 268-3313 or (580) 765-2911

APRIL 13
Rose State College Contest Powwow, RSC Student Center, 6420 S.E. 15; Midwest City, OK

(405) 736-0347 or aneitzel@rose.edu. Free and open to the public.

Talihina Festival Powwow at Talihina School Gym, HWY 1 & 271. Gourd Dancing at 2 and 6pm. Grand Entry and Intertribal Dances 7-10pm. Arts & Crafts, concessions, raffles, door prizes, more. Free Admission. Bring your powwow chairs. Info call Carol James, 918-567-2539

APRIL 17-21
The Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, a traveling three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be on display at the Sequoyah High School Football Field, 17091 South Muskogee Avenue in Tahlequah

April 20
40th Anniversary of Wounded Knee and American Indian Movement Dance honoring Carter Camp, at White Eagle, Okla. Gourd Dancing starts at 2pm and 6:30 pm. War Dancing at 7pm.

Tulsa Indian Health Care Resource Center contest powwow, 2pm, west side YMCA 5400 S. Olympia, Tulsa. Contests in adult, jr and golden age. All are welcome. Call Tim Shadlow for info: 918-382-2217

APRIL 26
Veteran enrollment and information sharing event, 10am-2pm at Ponca Tribal Affairs Building, White Eagle, Okla. (Hwy 177). Bring a copy of your DD Form 214. More info call Jo Ann, 580-765-2501, ext. 2232

Pawnee leaders release info on settlement disbursement

TONI HILL
Pawnee Nation Media Release

Recently there have been inquiries concerning the allocations of funds awarded to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma from the Nez Perce vs. Salazar settlement. Of the \$4,442,000 settlement amount, the Nation distributed a \$2 million per capita payment to 3,247 tribal members, with an additional \$400,000 dollar payment to the legal the Nation's representation, the Native American Rights Fund of Boulder, Colo.

In response to a request from the Office of the Inspector General, the Nation provided the following list of Pawnee Business Council (PBC) approved distribution of fund from the remainder of the settlement funds:

- ICDBG Project – Roundhouse Renovations - \$317,000
- Approved by PBC on 02-22-13 to be placed in escrow account:
 - ICDBG Project – Elder's Center, \$236,667
 - Approved by PBC on 02-22-13 to be placed in escrow account
 - Burial Assistance - \$240,000 for two years – 2013 and 2014 Effective – 03-13-2013, UP TO \$4,500 per burial, paid to the funeral vendor and \$500 for the family. This increased from the current amount of \$1,500.
 - School Age Children – all enrolled tribal members K-12 - \$250,000 - \$250 for school clothes, school supplies, school fees, athletic equipment, etc. provided by a \$125 voucher for fall semester and upon providing receipts will be eligible for \$125 for spring semester.



Marshall Gover, President, Pawnee Business Council

- Parent Teachers Organization - School Books - \$4,250 for text books for the Pawnee Public Schools
- Title VI Elderly Meals - \$81,900 to supplement for the program shortfall for 2013-14.
- From the Reserve Fund:
 - The purchase two lawnmowers for Property - \$17,998
 - The repair and replacement of the pump for Water Well #1 - \$8,085
 - ICDBG Project – Roundhouse Renovations – Change Order - \$6,440
 - The list below includes appropriation recommendations from the Committee currently being considered but not yet approved.
 - Pawnee Nation College - \$100,000
 - Pawnee Language and History Class - \$20,000/\$5,000 per year
 - Title VII Indian Education and CASA - \$20,000 total/\$10,000 each program/\$5,000 per year

- Indiana University Language Study - \$25,000 for 18 months
- College scholarships - \$50,000
- Graduate studies - \$20,000
- Pawnee Cultural activities (outside of school) - \$20,000
- Nasharo Council - \$10,000
- Nebraska lands (repairs, taxes, etc.) - \$20,000

Balance will be placed in Reserve Account. All disbursements of funds will be reported to tribal members in Chaticks-si-Chaticks Newsletter.

The Office of Inspect General (OIG) recently contacted President Marshall Gover after allegations of misappropriations of these trust funds was made to their office. President Gover satisfied the OIG by providing the distribution of funds listed above. OIG expressed concern over the false report made to their office by disgruntled tribal members.

The Settlement Oversight Committee, established by the PBC on Sept. 8, 2012, is comprised of three members of the PBC and three members of the Narsharo Council.

Linda Jestes (acting chairman), Carol Nuttle, and Karla Knife Chief are the PBC representatives and Francis Morris (Pitahawirata Band), Warren “Junior” Pratt (Skidi Band), and Ralph Haymond (Kitkehahki Band) are the Nasharo representatives.

For more information, please contact the Pawnee Nation Communications Office at (918) 762-3621 Ext. 25 or at (918) 399-1344.

– Release Date: 3/22/2013

Osage group visits tribe’s St. Louis mound property

■ The Osage Nation purchased the property from an elderly couple in 2008 for about \$230,000.

ST. LOUIS (AP) – Before it became known as the Gateway City, St. Louis was often referred to as the Mound City for the more than 40 Native American earthen structures that were once part of its landscape.

Now, only one mound remains. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that last week members of the Oklahoma-based Osage Nation tribe paid a visit to St. Louis to see it.

A small house sits on what is known as Sugarloaf Mound, purchased by the tribe in 2009. Deidre Bigheart, executive director for governmental affairs for the Osage Nation, said the tribe’s goal is to remove the house, reconstruct the damaged mound and build an education center beside it.

“Too much damage has already been done,” she said. “We want to preserve

it. We consider it a sacred site.” The mound, which sits just off Interstate 55, could be as much as 2,000 years old. A quarry nearly destroyed it 200 years ago, and construction of the highway did more damage in the 1960s. The Osage didn’t build Sugarloaf, but archaeological evidence suggests the tribe’s ancestors included a mound-building society that constructed massive earthworks throughout the Midwest. Wendy Ponca, one of 25 members of the tribe on the weeklong trip to view various Indian sites throughout the St. Louis region, was pleased the Osage Nation bought the land. “We want people to remember the Osage,” Ponca said. “That this is the only remaining mound and others weren’t preserved? Shame on us, the American nation.” The Osage Nation purchased the property from an elderly couple in 2008 for about \$230,000. Experts don’t know the purpose of the mound. Washington University

archaeology professor John Kelly said in 2009 that it was probably a burial mound. But Andrea Hunter, the tribe’s historic preservation officer, said Tuesday that it was more likely the site of a chief’s home or the location for ceremonies.

Sugarloaf Mound, near the Mississippi River, was listed in 1984 on the National Register of Historic Places. The 85-year-old house was not.

The Landmarks Association of St. Louis has said the mounds throughout the city were used by surveyors to measure distances and by residents as a way to orient themselves.

One of the city’s best-known earthen structures was known as Big Mound, destroyed during railroad construction in the 19th century. Sixteen mounds were destroyed in Forest Park in preparation for the 1904 World’s Fair.

Demolition of the home and other work at Sugarloaf are at least a year away, Bigheart said.



A small house sits on what is known as Sugarloaf Mound, a property purchased by the Osage Nation in 2009. The Osage didn’t build Sugarloaf, but archaeological evidence suggests the tribe’s ancestors included a mound-building society that constructed massive earthworks throughout the Midwest.

Osage committee requests more time on oil, gas drilling regulation mods

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – The Osage Negotiated Rulemaking Committee’s days may not be numbered just yet.

During its regular March meeting last Wednesday, the Osage Minerals Council voted 5-3 to request the Department of Interior indefinitely extend the negotiated rulemaking process to modify the federal regulations governing oil and gas drilling in Osage County.

“There are a lot of things and people that are involved,” OMC member and committee representative Curtis Bear said. “There are a lot of players. I think we need to discuss it a bit longer.”

During the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee’s public meetings March 13-14 in Tulsa, Okla., several groups, including the Osage Producers Association and the Osage County Cattlemen’s Association asked that the committee take additional time to review and discuss proposed changes, including possibly implementing regulations used by the Bureau of Land Management at other drilling sites across Indian Country.

“I don’t believe the Osage Minerals Council is leading the negotiations,” Osage Minerals Council member Cynthia Boone said. “I believe we are being pushed to finish this process by next month.”

The DOI is not required to honor the Minerals Council’s recommendation.

As of Friday afternoon, the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Washington office had not received a signed copy of the resolution.

BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling said once a copy makes it to Washington, it will be posted to the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee’s website as part of its public record.

If the committee does not honor the Osage Mineral Council’s recommendation, the committee’s April 2 meeting at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center will be its last before voting on the proposed amendments.

When the committee does reconvene, the Osage Minerals Council will do so with new legal representation. The council voted 5-3 Wednesday to immediately terminate its contract with Washington-based Akin Gump, citing concerns about the firm’s oil and gas experience and the fact that it is not an Oklahoma-based practice.

“I’ll be voting no on this,” Osage Minerals Council member Sonny Abbott said. “We have a cap with Akin Gump at \$5,000 per month. I don’t know if there are any of you out there who realize what attorneys could charge us for this.”

“We’re going to have to have an attorney and I don’t know if we can find another one for \$5,000 per month.”

The councilors who voted against the resolution – Abbott, Crum and Andrew Yates – are three of the tribe’s five representatives on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. The three also voted against requesting additional time for the rulemaking process.



NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES FILE
Jimmy Deer, second chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Greenleaf Ceremonial Grounds (left) and Frank Coachman, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative for the Okfuskee District hold signs protesting the Poarch Creek’s casino expansion Tuesday, Sept. 18 during the Interior Department’s sacred sites meeting in downtown Tulsa.

Okla. Creeks say PBCI’s sovereign immunity doesn’t cover contractors

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Hickory Ground Tribal Town filed a response Friday to multiple requests to dismiss a pending federal lawsuit over a sacred site’s potential desecration.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the Department of the Interior and several of the PBCI’s contractors and vendors filed motions to dismiss the Oklahoma tribe’s lawsuit last month, citing the Atmore, Ala.-based tribe’s sovereign immunity.

In their rebuttal, attorneys for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Hickory Ground Tribal Town and Hickory Ground Mekko George Thompson argue that the PBCI’s sovereign immunity does not extend to contractors doing business with the tribe or cover potentially illegal actions.

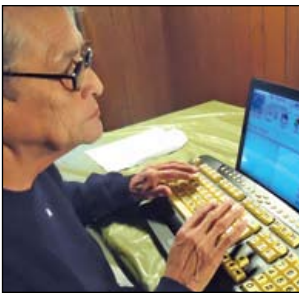
“The United States, by

its motion to dismiss, documents the abdication of its statutory responsibilities and fiduciary duties to the plaintiffs,” attorney Brendan Ludwick wrote.

The lawsuit stems from a \$246 million casino construction project near Wetumpka, Ala., that could potentially desecrate Hickory Ground, a burial site, ceremonial ground and the last pre-removal capitol of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. To date, 57 sets of human remains have been unearthed and reburied during the expansion process. The Poarch Band contends that the project is in compliance with all federal laws and that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has no claim because they are not the established lineal descendants of the individuals unearthed during the excavation process.

A hearing date has not been set on the lawsuit or any of its pending motions.

- Inside this issue:
- ICWA supporters weigh in on case
 - Vision program ‘life changing’
 - Girlfriend saves life with donation



NATIVE TIMES

Quapaw Tribe files breach of trust claim against feds

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – The Quapaw Tribe filed a \$175 million congressional reference class action lawsuit March 25 in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims over breach of trust claims.

Steve Ward, general counsel for the Miami, Okla.-based tribe, said more than one-

fourth of the tribe's roughly 4,500 enrolled citizens have at least expressed interest in participating in the lawsuit.

"This is an interesting case for Indian Country," he said. "It is really broad – a breach of trust based in part in the mess left behind in Tar Creek, but it is broader than that."

Last week's filing stems from attempts to settle a previous accounting

suit alleging federal mismanagement of Quapaw assets and land. The tribe's jurisdictional area in far northeastern Oklahoma overlaps with the old Tri-State mining district, which supplied almost half of the lead and zinc used by the United States during World War I.

The practices used to extract the lead and zinc led to mining operations

shutting down by the 1950s due to environmental concerns. Some attempts were made at clean-up and remediation, but by 1983, the Oklahoma portion of the mining district was declared a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency due to the area's long-term environmental and health hazards.

"It has been a horrible hindrance to our economic

development efforts," Quapaw Tribe chairman John Berrey said. "It's a gigantic scar on the land. Once you get the designation of a Superfund site, you can't get good businesses to come in."

Additionally, the Bureau of Indian Affairs failed to obtain market lease rates for Quapaw lands and did not



See QUAPAW Continued on Page 3 John Berrey, Quapaw Tribe Chairman



KEVIN E SCHMIDT | PHOTO COURTESY QUAD CITY TIMES
Mississippi River Water Walker Sharon Day carries an Eagle Staff and ceremonial copper pail of water from the headwaters of the Mississippi River along Highway 67 near Camanche, Iowa Tuesday March 26, 2013. Day, an Anishinaabe elder of the Ojibwe Tribe and five other walkers started their journey to the Gulf of Mexico on March 1 to raise awareness that the Mississippi is the second-most-polluted waterway in the U.S. according to recent studies.

Walk draws attention to Mississippi River pollution

THOMAS GEYER
Quad City Times

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) – For five walkers making the 1,200-mile trek from the headwaters of the Mississippi River to its mouth in New Orleans, the issue never has been clearer or more pressing.

"The Mississippi River is the second-most polluted river in the United States and we must do something about that," said Sharon Day, an Anishinaabe elder leading

the Mississippi River Water Walkers that began March 1 at Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota with a traditional Ojibwe water ceremony.

The four women and one man, three of whom are Native Americans, are carrying a ceremonial copper pail of water from the Mississippi headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Quad-City Times reports that on

See WALK Continued on Page 6

Delaware tribe may move headquarters to Kansas

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) – The Delaware Tribe of Indians is considering moving the tribe's headquarters from Oklahoma to Kansas.

Dee Ketchum, a former chief of the tribe, says it is looking for property in Kansas, focusing on Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties. He met with Leavenworth city officials last week.

Ketchum says the tribe is not looking for land for a new reservation. It could use the

new headquarters for several things, such as health care, housing and child care.

The Leavenworth Times reports Ketchum acknowledged that gaming could be part of an economic development effort.

He says the move is being considered because of restrictions the Delaware Tribe faces at its current location, which is in the jurisdiction of another tribe.

The Delaware Tribe of Indians has about 10,500 citizens.

Native community loses strong supporter as Sen. Tim Johnson steps down

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) – Members of South Dakota's American Indian community say they will lose a strong supporter when U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson steps down.

The 66-year-old Democrat announced March 26 that he will retire at the end of his third Senate term next year. He has been known during his nearly three decades in Congress as an advocate for Native Americans. Many people believe it was the Native American vote that gave Johnson the edge to defeat Republican John Thune in 2002, according to the Rapid City Journal.

State Sen. Jim Bradford told the Journal that news of Johnson's decision spread quickly across the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"I think this is a real blow to Indian people, a big loss," the Pine Ridge Democrat said. "Tim's always been real well-received down here, and he was one of our strongest proponents."

People on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation said that Johnson, who was a U.S. representative for 10 years before he became a senator, sometimes would make a personal visit to check on the projects he helped authorize. Tribe Vice President William Kindle told KELO-TV of a time when Johnson helped restore federal money that had been cut from the tribe's housing authority.

"We're going to miss Tim. You know, you can't work 27 years with a person and not feel a void there when they leave the position," he said.



U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-SD
"He's been real beneficial with us. We've just worked hand in hand with him."
Rosebud Sioux Tribal member Ralph Eagleman said he voted for Johnson every time the Democrat was on the ballot.
"He is like a member of the family ... He is a big
See SENATOR Continued on Page 3

Northern Arapaho tribe, feds delay eagle case

BEN NEARY
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) – A lawsuit between the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the tribe's fight for a permit allowing it to kill bald eagles for religious purposes is on hold for 60 days while both sides consider implications of

a new Wyoming law.

U.S. District Judge Alan B. Johnson on Monday signed an order staying proceedings in the tribe's ongoing lawsuit against the federal wildlife management agency.

Wyoming last month changed its law to allow falconers with proper permits to capture eagles. State officials have said the change

was necessary because the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish recently had taken over administration of falconry programs.

The new law also may provide an avenue for settling a lawsuit that has pitted the Northern Arapaho Tribe not only against the federal gov-

See EAGLE Continued on Page 5



FILE PHOTO
Last month, the state of Wyoming changed its law to allow falconers with proper permits to capture eagles.

Coalition of supporters call for ICWA to remain intact

Tribal Supreme Court
Project Press Release

WASHINGTON – The United States federal government and 19 states are among a broad coalition who filed amicus briefs last week with the United States Supreme Court supporting the rights of Native American father Dusten Brown and his daughter, Veronica, to remain together as a family, calling for the nation's highest court to uphold a previous South Carolina Supreme Court decision. The well-being of Veronica, the Brown family, and the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a focus of all the briefs.

The case Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, to be heard by the Supreme Court on April 16, 2013, involves a South Carolina couple seeking review of a South Carolina Supreme Court ruling and attempting to force Dusten Brown, a member of the Cherokee Nation, to give his daughter Veronica up for adoption. Mr. Brown, who is now raising Veronica at their home in Oklahoma, has prevailed in every court that has considered this matter, including the South Carolina Family Court and the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Joining the U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli and 19 states, including 18 state attorneys general, are a large array of groups who submitted 24 separate briefs in all. The overwhelming support includes 17 former and current members of Congress; Casey Family Programs, the Children's Defense Fund, and 16 other child welfare organizations;

the American Civil Liberties Union; broad coalitions of psychology associations, child advocates, and legal experts; adult Native American adoptees; and tribal amicus briefs which include 333 American Indian tribes.

"The broad base of support in this case is historic. In the history of the work of the Tribal Supreme Court Project, no Indian law case has generated more of a unified message to the Supreme Court about Indian law," said Richard Guest, staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), noting the outpouring of interest and support for Veronica, the Brown family, and ICWA.

Many of the briefs highlight the findings of the South Carolina Family Court, which found that "the birth father is a fit and proper person to have custody of his child" who "has convinced [the Court] of his unwavering love for this child," and were upheld by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

The amicus brief of the United States federal government emphasized the importance of ICWA, stating that "the United States has a substantial interest in the case because Congress enacted ICWA in furtherance of 'the special relationship between the United States and the Indian tribes and their members and the Federal responsibility to Indian people.'" The brief further defends the constitutionality of ICWA, arguing that "ICWA, which is predicated on Congress's considered judgment that application of its protections

serves the best interests of Indian children and protects vital interests of their parents and Tribes, does not violate any substantive due process protections." It concludes that "[t]he South Carolina courts properly awarded custody of Baby Girl to Father."

In the brief of leading national child welfare organizations, the best interest of the child is highlighted, in addition to the value of ICWA.

No one understands the human toll custody disputes can take more than amici, 18 child welfare organizations who have dedicated literally scores of years to the on-the-ground development and implementation of best practices and policies for child placement decision making. Amici have seen up close what works, and what does not. In amici's collective judgment, ICWA works very well and, in fact, is a model for child welfare and placement decision making that should be extended to all children. Much forward progress in the child welfare area would be damaged by rolling the law back.

A brief from Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne was joined by attorneys general from 17 other states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin—and argued against interference in the relationship between states and tribes in matters regarding ICWA, asserting, "States and tribes have

collaborated to ensure that the mandates and spirit of ICWA are fulfilled.... Early and complete compliance with ICWA ensures the security and stability of adoptive families as well as tribes and Indian families." The State of Minnesota

Seventeen current and former members of Congress also reflected this bipartisan support, noting in their brief the circumstances that led to the enactment of ICWA in 1978, as well as asserting Congress's exclusive power to legislate with respect to

duties as trustee to the Indian tribes.'

Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), commended former Senator James Abourezk for taking the lead on the brief, stating, "Senator Abourezk sponsored the bill that became ICWA because he recognized that the widespread removal of Indian children from their homes was a continuation of forced assimilation practices that had no place in our society. His leadership today sends an unmistakable message that there is unified support in defending his law from those who would return to the pre-ICWA era."

Two national tribal amicus briefs were submitted. The first, focused on the legislative history and importance of ICWA, was submitted by the Association on American Indian Affairs, NCAI, and NICWA, who were joined by 30 Indian tribes and five Indian organizations. A second national tribal amicus brief addresses the constitutional issues raised by the petitioners and also includes 24 tribal nations and organizations. The members of the Tribal Supreme Court Project—NARF and NCAI—in partnership with NICWA, joined together to organize the briefs in support of the father. In all, 333 tribes submitted briefs in support of the father.

Oral arguments for Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl will be held on April 16, with a decision expected shortly thereafter.



FILE PHOTO
Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown holds his 2-year-old daughter Veronica in this undated Associated Press photo. Brown won custody rights of Veronica on July 26, 2012 when the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled in his favor over Veronica's adoptive parents, who are non-Indian.

Department of Human Services also filed a brief.

Not one state submitted briefs in support of Adoptive Couple.

"This brief includes nine Republican and nine Democrat attorneys general," said John Dossett, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) general counsel. "Party affiliation does not matter. The federal trust responsibility is a nonpartisan commitment, which includes support for the rights of American Indian families and tribal governments to protect their Indian children—and in this case, for a loving father to be with his daughter and for her to be with her family."

Indian tribes. It stated:

'In 1978, Congress enacted ICWA in direct response to state adoption policies that were draining Indian tribes of their future citizens. Such practices threatened the very existence of Indian tribes. Without children to grow up as their citizens, tribes would be left with no one to speak their language, carry on their traditions and culture, or participate in their tribal governments.... Ultimately, any decision limiting Congress's authority to pass legislation like ICWA... would effectively preclude Congress from exercising its plenary authority in Indian affairs, and render Congress unable to fulfill its historic

Lawmaker: May rethink Lac du Flambeau grant

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – A Wisconsin lawmaker said Tuesday he may push to reconsider a \$250,000 state grant for a Lac du Flambeau cultural center after the tribe and other Chippewa bands dramatically raised their planned walleye take.

Rep. Dean Kaufert, a Republican from Neenah, accused the bands of retaliating for policy decisions by state outdoors officials and said their actions would hurt tourism industry in Wisconsin, resulting in less revenue for restaurants, bars and lodging.

The Chippewa tribes in northern Wisconsin have clashed with the Department of Natural Resources over decisions that permit wolf hunting and relaxed mining regulation. They have cited concern for the environment and said the state hasn't consulted with them.

Six tribal bands declared their intent last week to spear nearly 60,000 fish, saying the amount was consistent with their responsibilities to feed their communities.

The bands' declaration is used to adjust bag limits for sport anglers, so the higher potential take means smaller bag limits.

Kaufert called the tribes' decision wrong and said it has nothing to do with environmental concerns.

Kaufert, vice chairman of the state Building Commission, said when the commission meets in April he may push to have members reconsider the grant money. The state approved it last year to help the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe build a \$1.5 million Native American cultural center, the first of its kind in Wisconsin.

Tom Maulson, president of the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe, said in a telephone interview Tuesday night that Kaufert was overreacting and "shooting from the hip." Maulson also disputed claims that the tribes were retaliating by raising their planned walleye take.

"We're very fair and open and we've always shared the resources out there," Maulson said.

Tribal head: Wis. lawmaker overreacting to limits

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – The president of the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe says a Wisconsin lawmaker is overreacting by threatening to reconsider a state grant for a Native American cultural center.

Tom Maulson said Tuesday that Rep. Dean Kaufert is "shooting from the hip."

Kaufert, a Republican from Neenah, says he may push to reconsider a \$250,000 state grant for a Lac Du Flambeau cultural center

after the tribe and other Chippewa bands raised their planned walleye take.

Maulson disputes Kaufert's claim that the Chippewa tribes are retaliating for policy decisions by state outdoors officials. He says the tribes are "very fair and open and we've always shared the resources out there."

Six tribal bands declared their intent last week to spear nearly 60,000 fish, which could mean smaller bag limits for sports anglers.

Tribe sets up anti-mine online donation plan

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – A northwestern Wisconsin Chippewa tribe has started raising money for a possible lawsuit challenging a giant iron mine near their reservation.

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has set up a link on the tribe's website that allows visitors to donate directly to the tribe. The site also lists an address for mailing checks. The link features a headline that reads "Help us prevent mining in the

Bad River Watershed by donating today!"

Gogebic Taconite wants to dig an open-pit mine just south of the tribe's Ashland County reservation. Republican lawmakers passed a law earlier this month loosening the state's mining regulations to help the company.

Tribal members fear pollution from the mine will contaminate their water and wild rice sloughs.

VETERAN ENROLLMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING EVENT

Are you a veteran? Need to enroll to receive your benefits or medical service?
Have questions regarding your veteran's disability?
Don't know where to begin the process to start receiving benefits?
Are you a widow of a veteran and have questions as well?

Come and meet the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) staff and ask your questions.

**April 26th, 2013
10:00-2:00pm
Ponca Tribal Affairs Building
White Eagle, Ok. (Hwy.177)**

*- Bring a copy of your DD Form 214.
- Bring a copy of any other documentation you might need to verify duty.
- Returning Iraq or Afghanistan Veterans, come and ask about programs affecting your duty.*

**Point of Contact for this event: Jo Ann Springwater
Patient Benefits Coordinator • White Eagle Health Center
580-765-2501, ext.2232**



Does your child have Type 2 Diabetes?

If so, your child may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study

Now enrolling kids who are 10 but less than 18 years of age who have been recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.
Participants may receive, at no cost, study-related: research medication, medical care, laboratory testing, evaluations, glucose-monitoring supplies, and diabetes and exercise counseling.

Medical insurance is not necessary to participate in this study.

**For more information, contact:
COR Clinical Research
1211 N. Shartel, Suite 802 • Oklahoma City, OK 73103
405-272-8481 • mgreen@corclinical.com**

 Bristol-Myers Squibb AstraZeneca

Feds: Judge wrong to deny satellite voting

MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) – Civil rights attorneys from the U.S. Justice Department say a federal judge wrongly denied a request to establish satellite election offices for American Indians on three Montana reservations. Plaintiffs from the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap Reservations say in a lawsuit before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals they must drive long distances to county courthouses for early voting and late registration. They say that leaves them disadvantaged compared to white voters. But in the run-up to last fall’s election, U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull ruled there was no evidence Indians couldn’t vote for the candidate of their choice. Justice Department attorneys say in a friend-of-the-court brief filed this week that Cebull overlooked discrimination suffered by Indians who lack the resources to travel far.

Trial begins in Republican redistricting map challenge

BOB CHRISTIE
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) – A three-judge panel of federal judges began hearing testimony Monday in a civil suit brought by Republican voters who claim the state’s new legislative maps were drawn up to illegally dilute their voting power and give Democrats a better chance of winning seats in the Legislature. Lawyers for the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission disagree, with the lead attorney telling the judges in his opening statement that if it was the intent of the majority on the panel to draw maps for Arizona’s 30 legislative districts to get more Democrats elected, they failed miserably. He said both sides agree that Republicans will control the House and Senate at least through this decade because of how the maps were drawn. “You will have to decide ... that there was partisan intent,” lead lawyer Colin Campbell said. “If there was, it was partisan suicide.” The suit filed by 11 Republican voters, including the wife of Arizona Senate President Andy Biggs,

alleges the two Democrats and one independent on the commission froze out the two Republicans from any meaningful participation in drawing the new district lines required after the 2010 Census. They allege the independent and chairwoman, Coleen Mathis, hid her bias against Republicans when she applied for the appointed post, failing to note that she had contributed to several Democratic campaigns and that her husband served as campaign treasurer for a Democrat seeking a House seat in 2010. They go on to say that Mathis quickly teamed up with the two Democrats, making partisan choices for a mapping consultant with a background of working on Democratic presidential campaigns and refusing to allow Republicans to pick the lawyer they wanted. The resulting maps created 10 so-called voting rights districts, 9 Hispanic-majority and one American Indian majority, and did so by moving some Republican voters out of the districts. That left some Republican districts with more registered voters and the Hispanic-majority districts with

fewer than average, which effectively diluted their votes in violation of the one-man, one-vote principle in the U.S. Constitution’s Equal Protection clause. There was no overriding state interest in shifting the voters the way the panel did, according to attorney David Cantelme. “We will make an argument, and I think it’s a persuasive argument, that this pattern alone shows discriminatory intent,” Cantelme told the judges Monday. The Republicans want the maps thrown out and new ones drawn. The trial started just hours after Cantelme filed a request for permission to call a new witness, saying the plaintiffs had just learned that the executive director of the state Democratic Party shared maps with the commission’s mapping consultant that took incumbency into consideration. Commission lawyers called the effort a baseless fishing expedition without merit. The judges did not immediately rule on the request Monday. The case is one of three lawsuits brought against the commission after it adopted the statewide legislative and Congressional maps in

January 2012. Gov. Jan Brewer and other Republicans immediately denounced the maps as being drawn to favor Democrats. Brewer removed Mathis as chairwoman in November 2011, but the state Supreme Court restored her to the post two weeks later, saying Brewer had no grounds to remove her. Voters created the commission in 2000 to take the politically charged once-a-decade job of drawing new maps out of the hands of the Legislature. The three-judge panel, made of District Judges Roslyn Silver and Neil Wake and Circuit Judge Richard Clifton, is expected to hear testimony through Friday and rule later. Witnesses will include commission members, mapping experts, the commission’s Voting Rights Act expert and the executive director of the state Democratic Party, Dennis Quinlan. Two other cases have been filed, including one that challenges the commission’s right to draw district maps and another challenging the completed Congressional map.

Ala. company paying \$1.15 million to feds

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) – The U.S. Justice Department says Montgomery-based Caddell Construction has agreed to pay the government \$1.15 million to settle allegations that it violated the False Claims Act. The department said Monday the allegations involve falsely reporting to the Army Corps of Engineers that Caddell hired and mentored a Native American-owned company to work on construction projects at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Campbell, Ky. The department said

Caddell represented that it would hire and mentor Mountain Chief Management when building barracks at the two bases. The government alleged Caddell falsely reported invoices and supporting documents that is was mentoring Mountain Chief and that Mountain Chief was performing work. A former Caddell executive, Mark Hill, and Mountain Chief’s former president, Daniel Chattin, were indicted last year and are awaiting trial

QUAPAW

Continued from Page 1

regularly collect rent from non-Quapaw leasees in the area. It’s estimated only one out of every six eligible Quapaw tribal citizens received royalty payments during the mining boom. “This represents that we finally have the opportunity to tell our story,” Berrey said. “We can show Indian Country and the rest of the country just how awful it was during a period of time when it was politically acceptable to take advantage of people in a way that frankly, makes me embarrassed as an American citizen. It is a really bad chapter in our country’s history and is the Quapaws’ story.” The tribe settled a related accounting lawsuit with the federal government in 2005, but its requests for mediation were rebuffed by the Department of Justice, which requested the tribe

file an additional lawsuit. “The Quapaw Tribe cannot manage its assets and pursue economic development without a full accounting of its funds held in trust by the federal government,” said U.S. Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and the primary author of the legislation that allowed for the Congressional reference lawsuit. “Despite a 10-year legal process during which the tribe fulfilled every step of its agreement with the government, the Justice Department failed to follow through, leaving this important issue unresolved. This resolution simply allows the tribe a new day in court to argue the merits of the case.” Former Oklahoma representative David Boren and current representatives Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) co-sponsored the bill, which passed by a 399-6 margin. With the Congressional reference designation to its

lawsuit, the tribe can pursue broader damages that would normally not fall under the scope of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, either due to the statute of limitation or jurisdictional issues. “It is exceedingly difficult to get a Congressional reference,” Ward said. “The tribe has already filed a claim for individual members and a breach of trust suit for tribal claims, but both cases are limited to the jurisdiction. The Congressional reference is the means for getting complete relief. This is the third piece of the puzzle for the tribe.” A timeline has not been set on when the class action will be certified or when the Court of Federal Claims will hear the case. “We’re ready to go,” Berrey said. “We’d like to settle it next week. We’ve tried to settle this before but the Department of Justice apparently doesn’t think they have to live up to the agreements that they sign.”

SENATOR

Continued from Page 1

brother to us,” Eagleman said. Johnson’s departure could open the door for Republicans to claim the state’s first open Senate seat since 1978. Kindle said he doesn’t care

which party is elected, as long as the winner gets the job done in his community. Johnson, chairman of the Senate’s Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, announced Wednesday he was holding a field hearing in Sioux Falls on Thursday on the importance of public transportation in rural and tribal communities.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Alcoa settles \$20M river pollution suit with St. Regis Mohawk tribe

■ The settlement includes \$7.3 million for restoring grasslands, wetlands and fisheries; \$1 million for buying hundreds of acres for state protection and \$8.4 million for tribal outdoor education, horticulture, medicine, healing, nutrition and language programs.

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – Claims over industrial chemicals that leached in the groundwater and soil along the St. Lawrence River since the 1950s, polluting tribal land downstream and harming wildlife, were settled Wednesday under a nearly \$20 million agreement that includes money for environmental restoration and health and cultural programs for the affected tribe.

The settlement between Alcoa Inc., the St. Regis Mohawk tribe and state and federal officials involves discharges from two factories in Massena that released byproducts including potential carcinogens, damaging the environment and the downstream Akwesasne reservation along the Canadian border.

It includes \$7.3 million for restoring grasslands, wetlands and fisheries; \$1 million for buying hundreds of acres for state protection and \$8.4 million for tribal outdoor education, horticulture, medicine, healing, nutrition and language programs.

“This innovative settlement will restore resources that have been essential to the Mohawk community of Akwesasne for countless years, but that suffered in the 20th century from decades of toxic contamination that degraded natural resources used for traditional cultural practices,” said U.S. Assistant Attorney General Ignacia Moreno.

Federal, state and tribal officials concluded the aluminum factories – one owned by Reynolds Metals Co., now a part of Alcoa – and the former GM Central Foundry plant released

hazardous substances including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, volatile organic compounds, cyanide and fluorides.

Another \$1.8 million in restoration funds from a 2011 General Motors bankruptcy settlement will be used in the restoration projects, they said.

Alcoa, which signed the settlement in February, said it is a positive step, ending the case and resolving the natural resources damages assessment process.

“It is not an ongoing issue; it is a historical one,” spokeswoman Lori Lecker said of the releases. “Alcoa will undertake several ecological and cultural restoration projects including purchasing approximately 465 acres that will become part of the Coles Creek State Park and Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area.”

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Randy Hart said, “One of the most important aspects of this settlement is to understand the relationship between the environment and Mohawk culture, society and our economy.

It’s the most important relationship for any tribe, not just the Mohawks.”

New York, federal and tribal officials since 1990 worked jointly on the environmental assessment as trustees in a collective investigation they said showed that the discharges injured fish, birds, amphibians, mammals and their habitats in and along the St. Lawrence, Grasse and Raquette Rivers.

“Although we can’t turn back the clock, the trustees worked hard to ensure that this settlement improves environmental quality,” said Joe Martens, commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said the settlement should help restore the health of the St. Lawrence and its tributaries and Mohawk cultural practices that suffered as a result of the companies’ pollution. He promised to continue to hold accountable those who damage the state’s environment.

Scores turn out for water rights hearing

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Lawmakers asked to ratify a tribal water-rights compact held a two-hour hearing that brought scores of supporters and opponents to debate how one of the state’s most precious resources should be allocated in western Montana.

The compact quantifies and clarifies the water rights of the Salish and Kootenai tribes. It also calls for the state to pay \$55 million for improvements to the Flathead Indian Irrigation system and other water and conservation projects on the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana.

The compact is the product of 10 years of negotiations and must be ratified by the state, the tribes and the U.S. Congress.

State lawmakers took the first step toward ratification Wednesday in a House Judiciary Committee hearing on House Bill 629.

Supporters said it will help the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project on the Flathead reservation and boost economic development, but western Montana irrigators and landowners worried the deal could impair their own water rights and usage.

“Irrigators will receive less water than they are us-

ing today, rest assured,” said Daniel Cole, a farmer from Dixon. “We, too, want an agreement, but when people’s livelihoods are at stake, it must be the correct agreement, and this is not it.”

Backers of the compact said those fears are driven by misinformation, Lee Newspapers of Montana reported.

“While this compact may not meet every person’s expectation, it meets every person’s needs,” said Alan Mikkelsen, a farmer and rancher from Ronan. “No one is losing their irrigation water, on or off the reservation.”

Rep. Dan Salomon, R-Ronan, is sponsoring a bill that calls for a two-year legislative study of the compact before submitting it to the 2015 Legislature for approval. Salomon previously said he did not believe the Legislature would pass the compact this session, but he testified Wednesday for the bill’s passage now.

Gov. Steve Bullock, who supports the compact, wants to amend the bill to spend \$12.3 million in cash the next two years to get the projects started, said Bullock’s chief legal counsel, Andrew Huff.

Tribal officials said they’ll likely take their claims to court if the Legislature fails to ratify the compact.

Grand Chief says low vision help was ‘life changing’

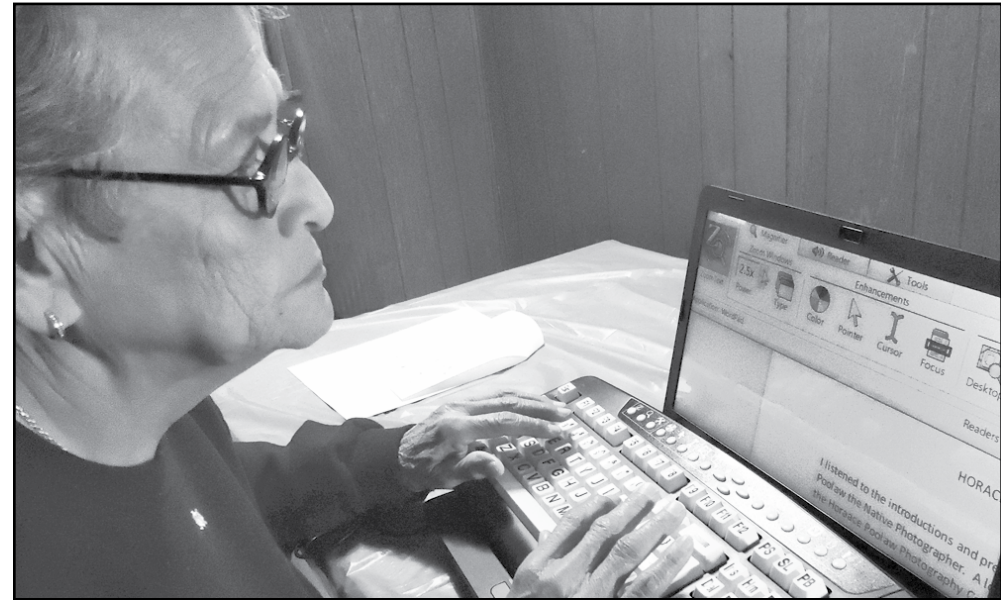
SAMMYE RUSCO
Project NATIVE

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Linda Poolaw was too determined to let mere distance stop her from discovering tools and technologies that could help her deal with her vision loss. Happily, driving across the state of Oklahoma from Anadarko to Tahlequah was worth the trip. In fact, it was life changing.

Her destination? A series of free workshops designed to help Native Americans with low vision. The program, called Project Native Americans Teaming in Vision Empowerment (or Project NATIVE), is headquartered in Tahlequah at the American Indian Resource Center. The grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Native Americans is the first across the United States to provide low vision services specifically for Native Americans. Services inform participants of the latest in low vision tools and technology as well as life skills, mobility instruction and self-advocacy.

Poolaw, of Delaware and Kiowa descent, is the Grand Chief of the Delaware Grand Council of North America. Poolaw has enjoyed a varied career with many accomplishments. In addition to

working for Indian Health Services she served the Delaware Nation and the grand council. She has written



Linda Poolaw is able to use a computer to write again with the help of software provided by Project NATIVE.

several plays, a book, and researched and wrote about Native culture for a variety of organizations. Retired now from tribal politics, Poolaw continues to write, but in the last 15 years words on a computer screen had become too small for Poolaw to see. Diagnosed with a rare eye disease in the 1970s, advancing vision loss was stealing her ability to work and her independence.

As her eyesight worsened over the years she went from

typing her own research documents on a laptop to dictating into a machine for someone to transcribe. She

found dictating a very difficult form of writing; it just wasn’t working. She began to write longhand but between her eyesight and arthritis it was slow and painful. Hearing about the Project NATIVE workshops from an advertisement in the newspaper she signed up and arranged for a good friend to drive her across the state to attend the workshops.

“I thought the workshops were wonderful. When I came back I was so happy I

said I think I can see again!” said Poolaw. “I have a deadline on this [Smithsonian Magazine] story and I think

I can get that in. I was hand writing before, and with arthritis it took me a long time. Then a lady would transfer my writing to a computer. Handwriting and dictating is not anything to writing on the computer, I can be so more creative this way. Now I am whizzing along.”

Since Poolaw already owned a laptop and was familiar with computers, Project NATIVE purchased low vision software called Zoom Text. The software not only

enlarges the words, it reads the words back and lets the user know where they are on the computer. Zoom Text and a special keyboard for low vision users had Poolaw “whizzing along” the first time she sat down at the computer during the workshop demonstration.

Poolaw is currently a consultant for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. Horace Poolaw, her father, was an internationally known photographer. Her assignment for the museum is to capture her father’s lifework in writing. Still known as a formidable woman at nearly 71 years old, Poolaw continues her involvement in Delaware culture and her work as an ambassador for her father’s lifelong work as an acclaimed photographer. She is eager to start working on a major exhibition of his work at the Smithsonian in New York City in the spring of 2014.

Poolaw has more exciting plans to flex her newfound computer capacities, saying that she will be, “Concentrating on using it as a word processor for my writing. Next week, I plan to explore more on the computer. I can’t wait to start corresponding with people and actually start doing some business on it. It’s changing my whole life.”

About Project NATIVE

Project Native Americans Teaming in Vision Empowerment, or Project NATIVE, provides low vision services to Native Americans with a vision loss.

Free workshop topics include information about home safety issues, moving safely and efficiently around the home and in unfamiliar locations, low vision aids (to watch TV, read, sew or use computers), and visual aids for arts and crafts and hobbies. From talking medicine reminders to magnifiers and special lights, participants will discover a variety of low vision tools for independent living.

All services are free and workshops are presented in a fun atmosphere by Native Americans. Three one-day workshops are part of the program and scheduled several times a year. If you or family members are interested in the free services offered by Project NATIVE, please call them at (918) 456-5581 for guidelines, applications and a workshop calendar or visit their website at www.aircinc.org. Project NATIVE, based in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and is funded by the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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Greatest gift: Woman donates kidney to ailing boyfriend

■ A diabetes specialist told Dylan Prescott he had had diabetes for possibly 15 to 20 years.

KEITH UHLIG
Wausau Daily Herald

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) – Jen Rasmussen didn't tell Dylan Prescott last fall that she was making the first steps toward giving him one of her kidneys.

Although Jen, 35, and Dylan, 36, aren't officially wed, the Wausau couple have been together for seven years and are married spiritually, if not legally. She had watched Dylan's health deteriorate the past three years and was with him when he found out that years of untreated diabetes had ravaged his kidneys.

"We had to watch him every single day," Jen said, referring to herself and daughter Jaysa Rasmussen, 9. "Finally, I thought, 'I'm going to go get tested, because I need to do something.'"

When she made it her secret decision to pursue a donation process, Dylan's kidneys were working at about 14 percent of their capacity, the Wausau Daily Herald reported. Several relatives and friends had looked into donating a kidney to Dylan, but their efforts were thwarted for one reason or another. Dylan was reaching the point where he would need dialysis to survive, and he was so weak he could barely get out of bed to eat.

The couple spoke about Jen donating a kidney to Dylan before Jen started looking into the process on her own, and Dylan was against it. He was thinking of their children – Jaysa, Jen's older son, D.J., who lives with his grandmother, and Dylan's three children from a previous marriage, Zeke, Reyna and Eli Prescott. He was concerned that they all could lose both a father and a mother should something go wrong.

But when Jen found out that she was a match and approached Dylan again about it, he relented. An American Indian, Dylan relied on his faith, a mix of Native traditions and Christianity, to help him decide. That spiritual grounding, he said, helped him believe "that it's going to be OK, no matter what."

Jen had a more secular perspective. "I was just like, well, we can get through this and get better. Or, we can wait around."

On Feb. 13, the day before Valentine's Day, Jen and Dylan underwent the transplant surgery at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison. They are recovering now at their home in southeast Wausau, thanking God, their family, friends and medical work-

eating habits, exercising more. The couple started to talk to the children about diabetes and eating right.

The work paid off. Dylan's blood sugar levels started to come down to healthy levels, but he still needed eye surgeries to regain vision, and he began to have other problems related to the disease, such as Bell's palsy, which affects the muscles in his face.

Most of the other problems diminished with

.....

Dylan, the director of the American Indian Resource Center of Marathon County, woke up about three years ago and discovered that he couldn't see the alarm clock. He turned his head to the left a little, and the clock appeared. That's odd, he thought, but he figured something was wrong with his contacts. As he shook off the grogginess of sleep, he realized that he was blind in his left eye.

.....

ers who have helped them get through the past three years.

Dylan, the director of the American Indian Resource Center of Marathon County, woke up about three years ago and discovered that he couldn't see the alarm clock. He turned his head to the left a little, and the clock appeared. That's odd, he thought, but he figured something was wrong with his contacts. As he shook off the grogginess of sleep, he realized that he was blind in his left eye.

He immediately made an appointment to get an eye exam.

"They told me, 'You have blood in the back of your eye,'" Dylan said, and they quickly sent him to the Eye Clinic of Wisconsin. Doctors there told him they thought he was having a diabetic reaction and sent him to Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

A diabetes specialist there told him he had had the disease, possibly for 15 to 20 years.

"It was like, 'Hmmm,'" Dylan said. "Sometimes, the symptoms come on so slow, you don't notice it and you just get used to it."

Dylan was immediately put on a regimen of insulin and other medications. The entire family went into health mode, Jen and Dylan said, changing all their

time, as Dylan adapted to a healthier lifestyle and treatments took hold. But



DAN YOUNG | COURTESY DAILY HERALD MEDIA
Dylan Prescott checks his vital signs at his Wausau home Thursday, March 28. His girlfriend, Jen Rasmussen, donated a kidney to him in February.

the kidney damage was not only irreversible, it worsened. In November 2011, the couple went to the Mayo Clinic to see whether specialists there could help Dylan's kidneys. They were told that the best hope was to slow the degradation, and that Dylan's kidneys would last another year.

"I did everything I could do, but it was too late," Dylan said.

By November 2012, Dylan's condition had reached a point where "I would have to force myself to get

out of bed, take a shower and eat. But that made me so tired, I had to go back to bed," he said. "I did a lot of praying. I pretty much put everything in God's hands. I went with the flow."

Jaysa, a quiet girl, recalls "a couple years ago, (Dylan) couldn't see that well. He needed glasses and started getting worse and worse and worse."

Dylan and Jen explained to Jaysa and their other children what was happening with Dylan. They talked about why they were eating better, why Dylan was so tired.

They included Jaysa in their prayers and healing ceremonies. Friends and family members all got involved and started showing support.

They also talked to educators at Jaysa's school, John Marshall Elementary, to let them know that Jaysa would be missing some days of school. Ken Krouse, the school counselor, talked with Jaysa's teacher and checked in on her, to make sure she was OK.

Jaysa, too. But it was heart-wrenching when it came time to leave her with Dylan's cousin just before they left for Madison for the surgery.

"I was scared," Jaysa said.

After the surgeries, Dylan's cousin drove Jaysa to Madison so she could see for herself they were OK.

"I was happy to see them," Jaysa said.

Before the surgery, Jen was scared, too. She wasn't having second thoughts, but the idea of the surgery began to frighten her. Another thought also plagued her.

"My biggest fear about the whole thing was, 'What if he rejected my kidney?'" Jen said.

Despite her worries, the surgery went well.

"I remember coming out, but still sleeping and hearing people in the room. His mom was just crying and crying, saying 'Look at her, she's laying there like an angel,'" Jen said. "I knew it was all OK then."

The whole group, includ-

ing Jen, went down the hall to see Dylan. He was looking better already, Jen said, but he was groggy and out of it.

"He just said, 'Baby,'" Jen said.

"It was like a dream," Dylan said.

That was late on Feb. 13. When Dylan woke up at 3 a.m. Feb. 14, he insisted that the nurses show him to Jen's room.

"I wanted to go see her," Dylan said. He woke Jen.

"I told her, 'Happy Valentine's Day,'" he said.

EAGLE

Continued from Page 1

ernment but also against the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. Both tribes share the Wind River Indian Reservation in central Wyoming.

The Fish and Wildlife Service last year issued the Northern Arapaho Tribe the nation's first permit allowing them to kill bald eagles for religious purposes.

However, the federal permit specified that the Northern Arapaho couldn't kill eagles on the Wind River Indian Reservation because the Eastern Shoshone Tribe opposed it. And until last month, state law prohibited killing eagles off the reservation – leaving the Arapaho with no place in the state where there permit would be valid.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Fish and Wildlife Service filed notice with Johnson on Friday asking for a 60-day break in the litigation to allow them to consider the implications of the new state law. Johnson granted the request Monday.

The request states that the Fish and Wildlife Service recently granted the Northern Arapaho Tribe a new permit that runs from March 1 through next February. The new permit also bans taking eagles on the Wind River Reservation.

Gary Collins, Northern Arapaho tribal liaison to the state of Wyoming, said Monday that the tribe's Business Council was pleased the state Legislature passed the new state law. He had testified in favor of it before legislative committees.

"There's certainly enough reason to allow the taking of two eagles based on the recent legislation," Collins said. "And that might be enough of a support for the Fish and Wildlife Service to see that there's guidelines in the eagle issue. It's not open warfare or just blatant disregard for the animal portion, the eagle portion."

John Powell, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cheyenne, declined comment on the case on Monday. Efforts to reach an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Section were not successful.

The Eastern Shoshone Tribe has entered the lawsuit, arguing against allowing eagles to be killed on the tribes' joint reservation.

Kim Varilek, attorney general for the Eastern Shoshone, said Monday that the break in the litigation offers a reasonable opportunity for the Northern Arapaho Tribe to reach a possible solution.

Varilek said the Eastern Shoshone remain opposed to killing bald eagles for religious purposes, even outside the Wind River Indian Reservation.

"Obviously the Shoshone Tribe doesn't support it," Varilek said. "But we don't have any control over the state."

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Free tax help is available if you look

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business Writer

Free tax help is available, and it's not only for those in financial need.

Some organizations offer free services regardless of how much you earn. AARP, the nonprofit organization that advocates for people over 50, has relaxed income requirements for who can receive free tax preparation assistance and also helps people of different ages. Meanwhile, the Internal Revenue Service offers free tax advice and basic online filing, regardless of income.

For taxpayers who earn under a certain amount each year, the free offers are sweeter. The IRS provides free in-person federal tax preparation as well as free brand name online tax preparation.

That said, those options are best for people with uncomplicated finances. If you're running a small business or own investment property, you will be better off hiring a professional.

Here's where to find free tax help:

FREE FACE-TO-FACE FILING:

If you want to sit down with a tax preparer, there are a couple of options:

AARP offers free federal and state tax preparation for people with "moderate incomes," says Bonnie Speedy, the national director of the organization's Tax-Aide program. But it doesn't have any strict restrictions. A person making more than \$100,000 a year may be asked to hire a professional rather than use an AARP volunteer, says Speedy. But if the person has an income over \$100,000 because of an early retirement account withdrawal, they'll gladly help, says Speedy.

AARP will file taxes for younger people too. "We've helped college students file their taxes," says Speedy. And you don't have to be a paying member of the organization. AARP's tax services are available at about 6,000 locations around the county, usually in libraries, hospitals or senior centers. You can find a location near you on www.aarp.org. AARP has about 36,000 volunteers that are trained and tested, says Speedy, who is also a volunteer tax preparer.

The IRS offers free in-person federal tax filing too, but with restrictions. You must have an adjusted gross income below \$51,000 to qualify. The tax preparation help is usually provided in IRS offices, libraries and colleges

around the country. You can find a location at: <http://1.usa.gov/11NL73m>.

FREE ONLINE FILING:

If you would rather file your taxes yourself, the IRS offers free federal online filing for those with an adjusted gross income under \$57,000. The IRS partners with about 15 different websites you can choose from, including H&R Block and TurboTax. Each site will walk you through the filing process step-by-step, but also comes with its own set of restrictions.

To use H&R Block for free, for example, you must make \$57,000 or less and be under 52 years old. Go online, at <http://1.usa.gov/WWHt74>, to see which free service you may qualify for. Some states also offer free filing too, but you'll have to search online for your state's tax department to determine if it's available and any eligibility requirements.

If you have adjusted gross income of more than \$57,000, you can file your federal taxes for free, but you'll have to be good with numbers. FreeFile is the electronic version of the IRS paper forms. There's no guidance or assistance, so you'll need to have some understanding of how to file on your own. FreeFile

is available online at <http://1.usa.gov/10a4DWK>.

FREE HELP:

Got a tax question? The IRS gives out tax law assistance at no cost in its offices around the country. It's available to anyone, regardless of income. You'll need to pop into an IRS office. Try calling ahead to see if you need to make an appointment first, especially as the April 15 tax deadline nears. Go to <http://1.usa.gov/YJlmhY> to find an IRS office that offers free tax advice.

ONLINE:

– *AARP free tax filing location search:* <http://www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action>

– *IRS in-person free tax filing location search:* <http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>

– *IRS free online federal tax filing:* <http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/>

– *IRS FreeFile:* <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free>

– *IRS location search for free tax advice:* <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Contact-Your-Local-IRS-Office-1>

WALK

Continued from Page 1

Tuesday, they planned to walk along U.S. 67, beginning in Princeton and continuing south. They take turns walking individually while the others ride in a support van.

Day and several others in the group were part of the Mother Earth Water Walk of 2011, when walkers brought pails of water from the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and Canada to Bad River, Wis.

At the end of the 2011 walk, someone asked Day, 61, of Minneapolis, what was next.

"She told them the Mississippi River," said Barb Baker-LaRush, 45, of New Post, Wis. "All I said was, 'I'm there.'"

Baker-LaRush said that of all the water on the Earth, only 3 percent can be consumed by people. The rest can't, she said.

Marya Bradley, 47, of Philadelphia, who is making the trek, said it is time people "decide if we care about the next generation or the other creatures that live on Earth with us. We need to change fundamentally the way we respond to life and recognize what we need to do to take care of

it. What we do to the water, we do to ourselves."

Ira Johnson, 32, came from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada for the trek.

Johnson said he was part of the walk in 2011, and plans to see this one through. "It's important that we raise awareness of what is happening to our water resources," he said.

Beth Brent, 48, flew from Harbor Ferry, W.Va., for the walk. She said she met First Nations Ojibwe Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, a founder of the Water Walk, who told her to walk the Mississippi River.

"I thought the feeling to walk it would go away, but it got stronger," Brent said.

Baker-LaRush said they are the core group that will make the entire trip, but often other people in different cities join the walk for a while as a show of support.

In addition to raising awareness of the pollution problem, Day said, "We want the walk to be a prayer. Every step we take, we will be praying for and thinking of the water."

They expect to arrive at the mouth of the Mississippi in late April, Day said.

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NSU releases symposium details, addition

Northeastern State University News Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Northeastern State University and its Center for Tribal Studies invite people through northeast Oklahoma and beyond to attend the 41st Annual Symposium on the American Indian. The Pre-Symposium Film Series is April 8-9 and the full schedule runs April 10-13. The theme of the 41st symposium is “Technology Future, Technology Past: A Woven Link.” The event is organized by NSU’s Center for Tribal Studies and the American Indian Heritage Committee. In collaboration with the Cherokee Heritage Center, this year’s event will highlight the 50th anniversary of the Cherokee National Historical Society.

All events are free and open to the public. Confirmed keynote speakers for the symposium include Charles “Chief” Boyd, Dr. Daniel Littlefield Jr., Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Bunky Echo-Hawk, Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald and Dr. Pamela Munro.

Boyd has been an architect with Thalden Boyd Emery Architects since 1978 and is a graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder. He has extensive experience with American Indian projects beginning in 1963 with the Cherokee Heritage Center, and his keynote symposium address will observe its 50th anniversary. Chief has worked with 45 tribes across the U.S. and is a renowned Native American architect. Since 1964 he has been the official architect to the Cherokee National Historical Society and serves on its board. He is the architect of the ancient village addition to the Cherokee Heritage Center. Littlefield is a history scholar and director of the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, which is home to the American Native Press Archives which Littlefield co-founded in 1983. The ANPA contains newspaper and periodical publications under more than 2,100 titles by American Indian nations, individuals and organizations.

It also contains American Indian manuscripts, scholarly works and records and biographical information on about 4,500 Native American writers.

Wildcat is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., who has published works on indigenous knowledge, technology, environment and education. He is also co-director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, which he founded with colleagues from the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at Kansas State University. A Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Wild-

cat is the coauthor, with Vine Deloria, Jr., of *Power and Place: Indian Education in America*, and co-editor, with Steve Pavlik, of *Destroying Dogma: Vine Deloria, Jr., and His Influence on American Society*. Renowned for his commitment to environmental defense and cultural diversity, Wildcat is a recipient of the Heart Peace Award from *The Future is Now*, a Kansas City organization.

Echo-Hawk is a multifaceted creator of art whose work spans media, lifestyle and pop culture. A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, he is an artist, graphic designer, photographer, writer and a non-profit

professional. He is also a traditional Pawnee/Yakama singer and dancer.

Munro is a distinguished professor of linguistics at the University of California-Los Angeles. She specializes in

Montgomery-Anderson conducts the Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages (OWNAL) on Saturday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the UC Morgan Room. The OWNAL work-

Dancing at 6 p.m. and the Grand Entry at 8 p.m. Saturday opens with Gourd Dancing, the Powwow Dinner at 5 p.m. and the Grand Entry at 7 p.m. The powwow is part of the NSU Arts of



COURTESY PHOTO
The highly popular powwow is 6-10pm April 12 and 2pm-midnight April 13 in the Northeastern State University Center’s Sen. Herb Rozell Ballroom.

New feature at 41st Annual Symposium on the American Indian: Mvskoke (Creek) Language Forum, Thursday, April 11, 3-4:30 p.m., UC Rozell Ballroom

Mahaya (teacher) Norma Marshall, College of the Muscogee Nation, will coordinate the forum which replaces the Cherokee Language Forum held for the past five years under the direction of Harry Oosahwee. Harry designed the forum to give audiences the opportunity to hear the Cherokee language spoken among several people, including speakers from Cherokee Nation and United Keetoowah Band in Oklahoma and the Eastern Band Cherokees from North Carolina. He included speakers from different communities as well to demonstrate the dialectic variations. This very successful event has been a highlight of the symposium for the past five years and we hope to continue by introducing more languages in the future.

Here are some highlights of this year’s forum from Ms. Marshall:

- CMN students will read, write, speak, and sing in the Mvskoke Language.
- PowerPoint presentations with translations.
- Nelson Harjo, Sr. has approximately five students in the Beginning Mvskoke class; Norma Marshall will have 2-3 students in the Intermediate Mvskoke class, 2 students in the Advanced Mvskoke, 2-3 in the Conversational Mvskoke, and 1 in the Mvskoke Practicum: Reading and Writing.
- Miss Indian Oklahoma, Brittany Hill, is in the Conversational Mvskoke.
- Tentatively, Nancy Deere-Turney, Miss Muscogee Nation, will be coming with us.
- Josh Laney is in the Advanced Mvskoke and plays the Bamboo Flute as well.
- Nelson Harjo, Sr. is the adjunct instructor for the Beginning Mvskoke and will bring his Cedar/Bamboo/River Cane Flutes.
- Danny Beaver is in the Intermediate Mvskoke and will bring traditional ceremonial items as well.
- Some of the culturally significant items will be displayed such as Mvskoke pottery, basketry, shell carving, ballsticks, moccasins, flutes, and hymns that students sing in the Hymns class.

American Indian languages and has published prolifically on the subject. She helped create the dictionaries for the San Lucas Quiavini Zapotec, Chickasaw and Wolof.

Leading the annual Indigenous Language Documentation and Revitalization Seminar, co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Native Language Association, is Fitzgerald from the University of Texas-Arlington and Dr. Brad Montgomery-Anderson of the NSU College of Liberal Arts. Fitzgerald and Montgomery-Anderson will conduct the seminar from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday in the UC Morgan Room. Participation is free and open to Native language practitioners, speakers, students, and others interested in language revitalization. The seminar is supported by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and is open to the public.

shop discusses descriptive studies of indigenous languages of North America. It is intended for professional linguists and linguistics scholars, but open to all. A registration fee is required. Contact Montgomery-Anderson at 918-444-3610 for information.

Other keynote presenters will be Becky Chandler and Karissa Pickett of Chickasaw Nation Communications and Creative Services, and the Cherokee Heritage Center represented by Tom Mooney, Mickel Yantz, and Tonya Hogner. Luncheon speakers will be Chris Samples of Redstone Construction and storyteller Robert Lewis of the Cherokee Nation.

April 12-13 is the highly popular NSU Powwow in the University Center Sen. Herb Rozell Ballroom. Hours are 6-10 p.m. Friday and 2-midnight Saturday. The Friday schedule includes Gourd

Indigenous Cultures Series and funded in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council.

Powwow Master of Ceremonies will be Kelly Anquoe; Arena Director Jon Stanley; Head Singer Joel Deerinwater; Head Man Dancer Thorpe Sine; Head Lady Dancer Erica Pretty Eagle Moore; Head Gourd Dancer Adam Proctor; and Color Guard will be the Cherokee Nation Color Guard.

Other symposium sponsors include Muscogee Creek Nation Casino, the Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Cultural Tourism, Oklahoma EPSCoR and the NSU Indigenous Scholar Development Center.

For more information about the 41st Annual Symposium on the American Indian contact the Center for Tribal Studies at 918-444-4350. Vendor and sponsor information is available at nsuok.edu/symposium.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Class A Weleetka Outlaws basketball team brought home the silver ball after their third consecutive trip to the state finals. They’ll be a team to watch next season - they’re only losing one starter to graduation and the four returning starters have played together since sixth grade.

Small school team repeatedly shows hard work, heart

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WELEETKA, Okla. – Despite coming up short at the Class A basketball tournament, the Weleetka Outlaws are still proud of the hardware they brought home from State Fair Arena.

“This is the third year we’ve gone to state and getting to the finals, even though our ultimate goal was

to win, is still a big deal,” fourth-year head coach and Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Brett Thomas said. “We’re proud of that silver ball. We’re not going to sit around and pout about it. It was an amazing accomplishment to get there. Time goes on and that silver ball looks pretty good.”

The Okfuskee County high school has about 110 enrolled students, placing it in Class A, the Oklahoma

Secondary Schools Activities Association’s second-smallest classification. More than one-third of the district’s students are Native American, including all five starters on the high school’s boys basketball team.

Among the Outlaws’ 26 wins were eight victories over teams from larger schools, including Glenpool, Henryetta and Holdenville. Two of the team’s three losses all season came from significantly larger

schools – Class 6A state qualifier Tulsa Union and Class 4A Verdigris – during the Tournament of Champions in December. Their lone loss to a Class A team was a 54-50 barnburner with Glencoe March 2 for the state title.

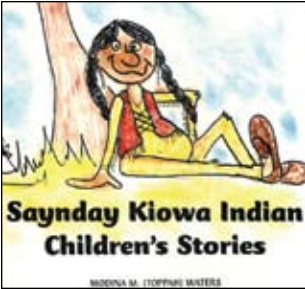
“We scheduled those match-ups to get better,” Thomas said. “We don’t get to play the underdog that often. This is just a chance to play some different people with a more

physical style than what we’ll often see in our conference.”

The team will lose one starter to graduation. The returning four starters – all juniors – have played together since sixth grade.

“These kids deserve it,” Thomas said. “They work hard in season and out of season. They’re great kids in and out of the classroom, with a 3.73 GPA as a team. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

- Inside this issue:
- Gov. stops tribe’s online poker
 - Tribe opens recycling center
 - Kiowa children’s book published



NATIVE TIMES

MAKING IT TO THE BIG DANCE



Louisville guard Jude Schimmel (22), guard Shoni Schimmel (23), forward Sara Hammond (00), guard Antonita Slaughter (4) and guard Bria Smith (21) celebrate the team's 86-78 victory over Tennessee in the regional final in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

SUE OGROCKI | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

NDN roundballers liven up NCAA tourney

■ Along with the Schimmel sisters, Shoni and Jude, two Cherokee Nation citizens helped lead their teams to the NCAA tournament - and both are projected to be taken in the WNBA draft later this month.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Thanks to the women's NCAA basketball tournament, America is getting an introduction to rez ball.

The introduction comes in part from University of Louisville guards Jude and Shoni Schimmel, who grew up in eastern Oregon on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla's reservation. The sisters led the Louisville Cardinals to upset victories over No. 1 seed Baylor University and No. 2 Tennessee for a berth in the Final Four.

The Cardinals sealed their trip to the final matchup Sunday with a 64-57 victory over California in an NCAA semifinal.

Shoni, a junior, and Jude, a sophomore, are thought to be the first Native Americans to play in the women's Final Four since the NCAA started sponsoring the tournament in 1982. According to the NCAA's most recent

race and gender demographic report, four male and 21 female Division 1 basketball players self-identified as Native American or Alaska Native during the 2011-2012 season.

With teams from the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University eliminated, many Natives converged on Oklahoma City's Chesapeake Arena April 2 to watch and support the Schimmel sisters, including Seminole Nation citizen and Oklahoma State University fan Ashley Morris, who drove down from her home in Stillwater, Okla., to catch Louisville's regional final against Tennessee with friends after watching Shoni Schimmel

See NCAA Continued on Page 4



Kevi Luper



Tahnee Robinson



Angel Goodrich

Seneca-Cayuga Chief still contests election results

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

GROVE, Okla. – The results of the 2012 Seneca-Cayuga's tribal election are still being contested - despite a ruling from the Court of Indian Offenses.

On March 25, Appellate Magistrate Tom Walker with the Eastern Oklahoma region's Court of Indian Offenses overturned a decision from the court's trial division and ruled that the tribe's election commission must certify the results from the tribe's June 2, 2012, election, seat the eight winners and post the vote tallies in accordance with the tribe's election laws.

The tribe's June 2012 election results were originally set aside after a challenge was filed over the notarization on a single



Seneca-Cayuga Chief LeRoy Howard

absentee ballot, submitted by a tribal citizen who was in jail on the date on notarization oath. After verifying the notary had not administered the oath in jail, the election commission chose to review the other seven ballots notarized by the same person and ultimately disallowed all 70 absentee ballots cast, a move overruled in Walker's

See RESULTS Continued on Page 5

Tulsa Indian Club officer named to Tulsa commission

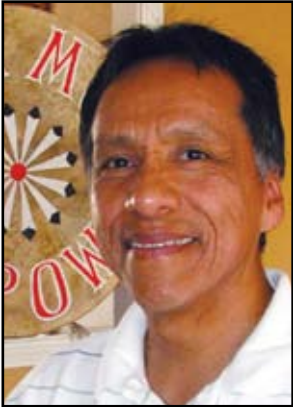
KAREN SHADE
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – There's one less vacant seat on the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission.

Robert Anquoe (Kiowa), current treasurer of the Tulsa Indian Club, was recently appointed to the GTIAC - an appointment he says carries great responsibility because there is little direct advocacy for the Indian community outside of the commission.

"The Indian community is a little quiet. We need to provide a voice to elected officials to bring to their attention some issues that affect the Indian community," Anquoe said.

The commission consists of eight individual members and 15 member organizations. It serves an



Robert Anquoe

advisory function to the City of Tulsa in promoting the welfare and understanding of the city's Native American communities. Currently, there are 19 commissioners.

According to Anquoe, the GTIAC was created about 43 years ago by his uncle, the late Kenneth Anquoe

See ANQUOE Continued on Page 5

Annual Oklahoma Native language fair keeps growing

This year's fair had 45 Native languages represented by 63 tribal language programs, schools or family groups. And of the 921 students who competed, more than 500 actually attended the fair at the Sam Noble Museum.

LISA SNELL
Native Times

NORMAN, Okla. – The 11th edition of the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair featured 921 students performing or submitting 446 entries on April 1-2 at the Sam Noble Museum. That's nearly 800 more students participating this year than in 2003 when 126 students competed in the first language fair.

Dr. Mary Linn, Sam Noble Museum Native American languages curator, said she's seen the event grow since she, Cheyenne & Arapaho citizen Quinton Roman Nose and Comanche citizen Geneva Navarro decided to hold the fair in 2003.

"We do have growth. Some years, when there's cutbacks in public school education there's also cutbacks for travel and field trips. But this year we have, yes, there is a lot of kids participating, a lot of programs," Linn, a non-Native said.

Linn said she credits the growth of student participation to a resurgence of Oklahoma's Native languages.

"Whereas in the media, it focuses on the loss of elder first language speakers, and that certainly is happening in Oklahoma and that certainly is a

See FAIR Continued on Page 7



NATIVE TIMES PHOTO

The Cherokee Immersion School kindergarten class sings "I'll Fly Away" April 1 at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. The class brought home the first place trophy in their category.

Gov.’s office quashes C&A faction’s attempt at online poker website

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – After talks with state officials Friday, an Oklahoma tribe’s attempt to launch an online gaming site has been stopped – at least within the United States.

PokerTribes.com, a joint venture between the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Universal Entertainment Group, was launched in June 2012. Originally billed as a free social networking site, PokerTribes and its corresponding mobile applications included

soon” icon, links to news clips about the agreement and a posted estimated re-launch date of summer 2013.

Had the tribe not agreed to take the site down, the state of Oklahoma would have pursued enforcement action, including financial penalties.

Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration will not be fined by the state for the time the site was operational because tribal officials maintain that they believed the site was covered by its gaming compact. Signed in 2005, the Cheyenne and Arapaho compact

According to check copies obtained by the Native Times, the Boswell administration paid Universal Entertainment Group more than \$6.8 million between April 2012 and January 2013 for technical assistance, legal services and other administrative costs tied with the website.

area in western Oklahoma.

“We’re not trying to fight,” Steve Mullins, general counsel for Gov. Mary Fallin, told the Daily Oklahoman. “We’re trying to resolve.”

State officials also maintained that the interpretation applies to



FILE PHOTO
PokerTribes.com, a joint venture between the Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell administration and Universal Entertainment Group, was launched in June 2012. The site included references to financial transactions and the state indicated it would pursued enforcement action, including financial penalties. The site has since been revamped.

explicit references to financial transactions, including a “Buy credits” button on its home page and content about refunds for inactive accounts in its terms of service page.

Under the terms of the agreement made with the state of Oklahoma April 5, the tribe will shut the site down domestically, but is allowed to operate it abroad pursuant to international standards. As of Saturday morning, April 6, the website has a “Coming

extends to electronic instant and bonanza-style bingo games, electronic Class III games and non-house-banked card games in which the tribe does not have a vested interest in the game’s outcome, including tournaments and matches in which the tribe collects a fee for participating.

The compact does not specifically mention online gaming. The tribe already owns and operates five Lucky Star casinos across its nine-county jurisdictional

other tribes with gaming interests.

When contacted by the Native Times about the site on March 26, a representative for the state of Oklahoma’s Tribal Gaming Compliance Unit said it was his understanding that as long as the site was simply a free social networking site that did not accept cash play. After being shown the site’s terms of use, which made explicit reference to financial transactions within the site, the Tribal

Kiowa Tribe attempts steps toward conducting formally recognized election in June

Of the three people currently serving on the five-member Kiowa Election Board, the KBC only recognizes one.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times



Acting Kiowa Chair, Amber Toppah

CARNEGIE, Okla. – Kiowa voters may be heading back to the polls this summer for the tribe’s first formally recognized election in two years.

At Saturday’s Kiowa Indian Council meeting, Kiowa Business Committee acting chairwoman Amber Toppah announced that efforts are underway to fill vacant seats on the tribe’s election board and hearing board in order to have an election in June.

“It might not be the first weekend in June due to the background checks, but there will be an election in June,” Toppah said. “We’ve reached out to four individuals...about possibly serving on the election board.”

including holding elections and certifying results.

“I bring this up because there’s been talk that the KBC has recognized some of the candidates on the ballot, or that we’ve cut deals” Kiowa Business Council member Steve Smith said. “We do not recognize it as a valid election and do not recognize any of those names as duly-elected officials. I have told them personally.”

Open to all enrolled Kiowa citizens older than 18 years old, several candidates from the unrecognized December election attended Saturday’s meeting to share their concerns, including Robert Hatfield. Hatfield was sworn in as a business committee member by election board chairman Dwayne Davis in December, despite not having quorum on the certification results.

“I have nothing in this for me except I am a concerned Kiowa citizen,” Hatfield said. “Why don’t you listen to the people? Why won’t you leave? Why won’t you recognize you were recalled?”

Near the meeting’s end, one man had to be partially restrained by Kiowa tribal security as he blasted Toppah and other members of the Kiowa Business Committee.

“If we say we want you out, you have to get out,” Kiowa citizen Steve Hopkins said. “The BIA can’t save you (KBC members). This is our day and we have the power.”

“We just want a legal election.”

Okla., Nebraska tribes meet for 1st time in 50 years

ROSALIE, Neb. (AP) – Omaha and Ponca tribes in Nebraska held a meeting Saturday with an Oklahoma tribe in a ceremony that tribal leaders say is the first such gathering in 50 years.

The Sioux City Journal reported that leaders from the Omaha Tribe in Macy, Neb., the Ponca Tribe in Niobrara, Neb., and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Red Rock, Okla., met in Rosalie, which lies within the Omaha Indian Reservation in eastern Nebraska.

The meeting was held to exchange gifts of tobacco and have tribal leaders smoke together as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago at the Blood Run encampment on the Big Sioux River near Sioux Falls, S.D., said Calvin Harlan, an event organizer and former Omaha Tribe historical preservation officer. The ceremony was open to the public.

Historians believe as many as 10,000 people from the Oneota Tribe, ancestors of

the three tribes, lived at the site in Lincoln County, S.D, and Lyon County, Iowa, three to five centuries ago. But in the late 1800s, the federal government forced the Ponca, Otoe and Missouria from the Upper Midwest to Oklahoma. The tribes established headquarters in Oklahoma, but many Ponca returned to Northeast Nebraska.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska achieved federal recognition in 1990.

The Omaha Tribe’s last tobacco-giving

ceremony with the Otoe-Missouria was held in 1960, organizers said.

Such gatherings are important ways for tribes to reaffirm their culture and history together, said University of South Dakota professor Samuel Herley.

“It gets harder and harder for Native tribes to keep their language, to keep their culture,” Herley said. “These events where tribes come together and do these kind of things can be a huge way to keep it going.”

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Osage Rulemaking Committee approves proposed drilling changes to federal regs: No timeline given

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – Setting aside formal and informal requests for extensions, the Osage Negotiated Rulemaking Committee approved proposed changes to federal drilling regulations April 2. “We are at a critical time,” Osage Minerals Council member Myron Red Eagle said. “We have to make this work. I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: this needs to be discussed more. “I wish this would go on some more. It needs to be looked at more deeply.” With the April 2nd vote, the committee’s draft will

be sent on to Mike Black, director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Secretary of the Interior for approval. It will then be open to another round of public input before implementation. No time line has been given for when the new regulations could take effect. “What is coming out of this (process) is proposed regulations,” Black said. “Purely that.” At its March meeting, the tribe’s Mineral Council requested an indefinite extension of the negotiated rulemaking process to amend the drilling policies used in Osage County. Generating about 13,000 barrels of oil per day, the \$4 billion

mineral estate is the largest single-owner mineral estate in the country and is among the top five oil producing counties in Oklahoma. Among the changes in the proposed regulations is the implementation of the Bureau of Land Management’s standards concerning hydrogen sulfide gas, which is a natural byproduct of flared excess natural gas. Also known as “swamp gas,” hydrogen sulfide can cause dizziness, nausea, headaches, eye irritation and breathing problems within a few breaths and can be lethal to humans as well as wildlife. “We put them in because there weren’t any standards already in place and because

many of our producers were already following the BLM’s standards,” Osage Minerals Council chairman Galen Crum said. The proposed regulations also defer to pre-existing BLM standards for gas measurement. The implementation of any other BLM regulations by the Osage Agency superintendent would have to be done in consultation with the Osage Minerals Council. If adopted, the new regulations will increase fines for producers. Once ranging from \$50 to \$500, daily fines would now be between \$150 and \$1,000, depending on the nature of the offense. The proposal still includes

plans to increase royalty rates to 20 percent on new leases and to tie all royalty rates to the monthly average NYMEX price in Cushing, despite protests from producers. The royalty rate, about 16 percent for most leases, is currently based off of the highest posted price within Osage County. “My purchasers are concerned about going to NYMEX,” Avant-based oil and gas accountant and landowner Nona Roach said. “NYMEX is based off of increments of 10,000 perfect barrels, which most of ours aren’t. If you want to go off of NYMEX, just hire a broker.”

Recycling center grand opening April 11

WILLIAM SWAIM
Wyandotte Nation News Release

WYANDOTTE, Okla. – The Wyandotte Nation will have a grand opening for its newly constructed Lost Creek Recycling Center April 11 at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend the dedication. The Lost Creek Recycling Center, a 4,000-square foot building located at 4 Lost Creek Drive (behind the Bearskin Fitness Center) in Wyandotte, Okla., is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The facility is also available after hours and during business hours when attendants are out on

collection by providing 24-hour drop boxes. Christen Lee, Environmental Director for the Wyandotte Nation,



said the facility can accept the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin and aluminum. During special events, e-waste and other materials may be allowed. Construction began in August 2012 and was completed for around \$200,000. Lee said community input early in the process was crucial for the Wyandotte Nation to develop a plan to best serve the recycling needs of the area. Funding for the project came in part from a cooperative national grant from the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Indian Health Services (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The \$104,000 grant was one of just five awarded in the U.S. An Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) grant covered the cost of the driveway and parking lot at the facility. The Wyandotte Nation funded the rest of the project not covered by the grants. Area businesses interested in having a recycle bin can call (918) 678-2297, ext. 241. Lee said they would also like to work with schools, scouts, 4-H groups and other organizations. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Wyandotte Nation, (918) 678-2297, ext. 241.

Interior chief sees many wind farms in US future

WASHINGTON (AP) – Interior Secretary Ken Salazar voiced optimism Friday that the nation’s first offshore wind farm will soon break ground after more than a decade of delays and be followed by more off the Atlantic coast. “I think there’s a good chance it will happen before the end of the year,” Salazar said of the Cape Wind project. Speaking in an AP interview a few weeks before he leaves office, he also claimed gains as secretary in tightening oversight of offshore drilling after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. “I think the coziness with industry that was there when I came into the department is gone,” he said. A former U.S. senator from Colorado, the 58-year-old Salazar ran the Interior Department throughout President Barack Obama’s first term. Along with changes at the offshore drilling agency, Salazar pushed for renewable energy such as solar and wind power and helped to settle a longstanding dispute with American Indians. The Interior Department manages more than 500 million acres in national parks and other public lands, as well as more than 1 billion acres offshore. The department oversees energy, mining operations and recreation and provides services to 566 federally recognized Indian tribes. Under Salazar’s watch, Interior authorized more than 40 solar, wind and geothermal energy projects on public lands that officials say will provide enough electricity to power more than 4

million homes. Salazar called his four-year tenure a “joyful journey” that took him from the Everglades to the Arctic. Still, he said he was eager to return to his family and his Colorado ranch. He spoke of progress in the long-delayed Cape Wind project off the Massachusetts coast because developers have agreements with utilities to purchase about 75 percent of the power the project is expected to generate and are working to get more. The \$2.6 billion project off Cape Cod was the first offshore project to win a federal lease when Salazar gave his approval in 2010. But the project has stalled because of lawsuits and difficulties obtaining financing. Developers plan to build 130 turbines in Nantucket Sound, but they’ve faced bitter opposition since they first proposed the project in 2001. Opponents have filed several pending lawsuits and argue the project will ruin the pristine sound and endanger marine traffic and animal life. They also say the project’s electricity is significantly overpriced and a terrible deal for ratepayers. Cape Wind says the cost is worth the project’s benefits, including jobs, decreased pollution and the creation of a reliable power source near a busy coastline. Salazar said the delays and lawsuits that have plagued Cape Wind illustrate the difficulty of developing new energy sources. Regulatory improvements made in recent years should help

other offshore projects follow more quickly, he said. “Nobody had really focused on offshore wind energy until President Obama came into office,” he said. “Cape Wind wasn’t even processed under the authority of this department. They ended up in this morass where it took them 10 years to work through that process.” Now, with so-called wind energy zones designated in the Atlantic Ocean, a host of wind farms should crop up from Maine to Virginia, Salazar said. “We’re very, very excited by the progress that has been made and we look forward to a robust offshore wind industry in the Atlantic.” On offshore drilling, Salazar defended the unprecedented shutdown of offshore drilling after the BP spill. In office, he also renamed and revamped the agency that oversees offshore drilling after the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig, which killed 11 workers and led to the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history. Business groups and Gulf Coast political leaders said the six-month shutdown crippled the oil and gas industry and cost thousands of jobs. Salazar said the moratorium was the right decision. Now, regulators “are being a lot smarter about what we lease” on the Outer Continental Shelf, he said. “We are making sure that people are kept accountable and that problems are detected and fixed as rapidly as possible.”

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES
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P.O. Box 411
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0411

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Navajo Nation Attorney General Harrison Tsosie tells a congressional committee in February that new clean-air regulations could have a “cataclysmic” effect on the tribe and its economy as currently proposed.

SALVADOR RODRIGUEZ | CRONKITEONLINE.COM

Navajo Nation bill aims to remove AG

■ As attorney general, Harrison Tsosie heads the tribe’s Justice Department under its executive branch but serves at the pleasure of the Tribal Council. He survived an attempt at removing him from office in his final month as deputy attorney general under the previous administration headed by Joe Shirley Jr.

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The top legal official on the Navajo Nation is being targeted for removal from office over his work on water rights and issues related to coal.

Harrison Tsosie was appointed as attorney general in 2011 by Tribal President Ben Shelly and confirmed by the Tribal Council. He previously served as deputy attorney general and ran unsuccessfully for tribal president.

Co-sponsors of legislation to oust Tsosie say he hasn’t adequately served tribal lawmakers. They say he has disregarded their suggestions on negotiations for a settlement of the tribe’s water rights to the Little Colorado River basin, the potential purchase of a coal mine, and a lease extension for the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station near Page.

Shelly said he is open to hearing the lawmakers’ grievances but doesn’t know specifically why some want to remove Tsosie. Shelly said lawmakers should consider whether the move would best serve the Navajo people.

“Of all the laws and codes that could be updated, is this really worth pursuing?” said Erny Zah,

a spokesman for Shelly. “Is the AG really hindering the growth of the Navajo government and the Navajo people to the point he has to be removed? How is he hurting the people? How subjective are those reasons? Those are some of the real questions.”

Tsosie didn’t return repeated messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The legislation’s primary sponsor, Dwight Witherspoon, declined to comment on it. But three of the co-sponsors said Tsosie has presented the council with too few options on some of the most critical issues facing the tribe. The legislation is going through council committees but hasn’t yet been scheduled for a vote by the full council.

Delegate Leonard Tsosie said the council’s Resources and Development Committee had instructed the attorney general to contact former Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl’s office to remove a provision for the Navajo Generating Station from legislation that would recognize the tribe’s rights to water in the Little Colorado River basin. Leonard Tsosie said that wasn’t done.

“He failed to follow his client instruction and later on gave us an excuse, saying that he would carry out the instruction if it was the whole council telling him to do so,” Leonard Tsosie said.

Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler said the council also had asked Harrison Tsosie to set up a due diligence section within the Navajo Department of Justice to look into the pros and cons of the tribe buying a coal mine. Butler said the council would not have approved \$3 million in spending for an outside firm to conduct the study had Harrison Tsosie done so.

“If anything, this will send him that message that he is easily replaceable,” Butler said.

Delegate Kenneth Maryboy outlined a dozen reasons he’d like to see someone else in Harrison Tsosie’s job. Maryboy said Tsosie is out of touch with Navajo culture, discourages economic development, gives Shelly bad advice, and doesn’t understand state and federal budgets.

Zah said the law firm hired to do a financial and legal analysis of purchasing the Navajo Mine near Farmington, N.M., specializes in aspects of the coal mining business. He said lawmakers have been given the opportunity to provide input on negotiating water rights and a lease extension for the power plant, but few have showed up to meetings.

As attorney general, Harrison Tsosie heads the tribe’s Justice Department under its executive branch but serves at the pleasure of the Tribal Council. He survived an attempt at removing him from office in his final month as deputy attorney general under Joe Shirley Jr.’s administration. Harrison Tsosie’s boss at the time, Louis Denetsoie, survived at least three votes in the Tribal Council to oust him. The council reprimanded Denetsoie in 2003, saying he favored the executive branch over the tribe as a whole.

Serving both the executive and legislative branches can be politically tricky. The key is to explain the law to clients and their options within the bounds of the law, said former Navajo Attorney General Levon Henry.

“With the Navajo Nation, sometimes that’s difficult because everyone has an idea of what avenue to take,” said Henry, who served as the tribe’s attorney general from 1999 to 2003. “It’s trying to get all those individuals – if it’s the lawmakers, or the president, or the vice president, or any of the executive branch directors – to hear that advice and make a decision.”

Delegate Russell Begaye hasn’t decided which way to vote on Harrison Tsosie, but he would like to see a change in the approach the attorney general takes when working with the council. Begaye said he often gets the sense that the tribe is set in its old ways instead of pursuing new, innovative ways to move forward.

“If the removal of the attorney general will solve these issues, these questions I have, then I will support it,” Begaye said. “But if the attorney general is willing to really work with the council and look at these issues from a different perspective, then I will support the attorney general remaining. I’m just looking for a change.”

If Harrison Tsosie is removed from office, Deputy Attorney General Dana Bobroff would replace him until another appointment is made and that person is confirmed by the Tribal Council.

NCAA

Continued from Page 1

score 22 points in the Cardinals’ Sweet 16 win over Baylor University and the Associated Press’ National Player of the Year, Brittany Griner.

“They’ve proven that they’re much more than girls who came from the reservation,” Morris said. “They have captivated Native American communities since the filming the documentary ‘Off the Rez,’ and I’m a fan as well. If anyone has the chance to watch them play, I highly suggest they do so.

“I went to show support to strong Native women. Most of the people in my section were Native as well, and it’s good to see all tribes come together for these young ladies.”

Along with the Schimmel sisters, two Cherokee Nation citizens helped lead their teams to the NCAA tournament and both are projected to be taken in the WNBA draft later this month.

A first team All-Big 12 pick, University of Kansas guard Angel Goodrich helped bring the Jayhawks to consecutive Sweet 16 appearances in 2012 and 2013 after losing teammate and All-American candidate Carolyn Davis last season due to injury.

“To go once, then go again was amazing,” Goodrich said. “The first year was breathtaking. The second year was awesome with Carolyn and to see her face, her smile.”

The Jayhawks defeated the University of Colorado and the University of South Carolina before falling to Notre Dame, 93-63 in the Sweet 16.

After averaging 14 points and almost seven assists per game this season, Goodrich is projected to potentially be a first-round pick, which would make her the first Cherokee Nation citizen taken in the WNBA draft and the highest-drafted Native American in league history.

To date, Tahnee Robinson is the only enrolled tribal citizen to be drafted by a WNBA team, with the Phoenix Mercury picking her up in the third round of the 2011 draft. One other Native woman, Navajo Nation citizen Ryneldi Becenti, played as a free agent with the Mercury in 1997.

“I’m blessed to have this opportunity,” Goodrich said. “I love the support I’ve had and am still getting. I’m so thankful for everyone that’s always been there.”

Along with Goodrich, Oral Roberts University guard Kevi Luper is also in a position to potentially be the first Cherokee Nation citizen taken in the WNBA draft after an NCAA tournament run.

A four-time first-team all-conference selection, three time conference player of the year, and two-time honorable mention All-American, Luper is originally from Adair, Okla. She also is the all-time scoring leader for both Oral Roberts University and the school’s former conference, the Summit League. She is projected to be a second round pick and if drafted, would be the first ORU women’s basketball player taken in the WNBA draft.

“Really, it’s an honor and a blessing,” she said. “I just thank God for all the talents he’s blessed me with.”

The Lady Golden Eagles lost in the first round to Tennessee, 83-62. Luper had 20 points and four rebounds in the loss.

“Being in the tournament was the best feeling as a player – knowing that us seniors have finally accomplished what we set out to do as freshmen,” Luper said. “We finally got to do it our last year.”

The WNBA draft is April 15 at 7 p.m. CDT. It will be televised live on ESPN.

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Tribe seeks artifacts from Paris auction

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP) – An Arizona tribe is asking a Paris auction house to cancel its upcoming sale of dozens of items central to the tribe’s religious practices and return them to their original homes in the American Southwest.

Neret-Minet Tessier & Sarrou describes the collection on its website as katsina masks of the Hopi Indians of Arizona. They are scheduled to be auctioned April 12, with some expected to garner tens of thousands of dollars each.

To the Hopis, they are living beings called katsina friends that emerge from the earth and sky to connect people to the spiritual world and their ancestors. Every member of the Hopi Tribe gets initiated into the Katsina society as a rite of passage.

Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, director of the tribe’s cultural preservation office, said the religious items have no commercial value and should be in the hands of the American Indian tribes from which they were taken, including the pueblos of Jemez, Acoma and Zuni in New Mexico. The sale of such items isn’t extraordinary, but the size of the collection to be auctioned in Paris and the age of the items is, he said.

The majority of the 70 katsina friends are labeled as Hopi and date back to the late 19th century and early 20th century. Kuwanwisiwma said they likely were collected from the Hopi in the 1930s and 1940s when there was documented evidence of a French citizen on the northern Arizona reservation.

“A lot of these objects were collected under suspicious conditions,” he said. “You had such a huge competition by museums to collect artifacts from tribal reservations, and Hopi was no exception.”

Acoma Pueblo said Wednesday that it would look into whether a piece labeled as originating from Acoma is authentic and would support any efforts to repatriate American Indian artifacts.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act gives federally recognized American Indian tribes a way to reclaim funerary objects and ceremonial items from federal agencies and museums in the United States. Sherry Hutt, the program manager for the national NAGPRA office

under the U.S. Department of the Interior said the law doesn’t always apply to items held internationally.

An email sent to Neret-Minet Tessier & Sarrou on Tuesday was not returned, and the auction house declined immediate comment when contacted by a reporter on Wednesday. The press release announcing the auction said the items were collected by a “connoisseur with peerless taste,” who had lived in the United States for more than 30 years and had attended katsina dances at the Hopi villages but doesn’t say how.

Jose Viarreal, editor of the website artdaily.org, published the news release and said he received calls afterward from Hopis furious about the sale. He said he contacted the

auction house and was told the items were obtained legally.

“I think this is going to go through as planned,” he said.

Kuwanwisiwma said no Hopi has authority to sell or transfer such items because they are considered cultural patrimony, and no one other than a Hopi tribal member should possess them. Things haven’t always worked out that way.

The auction house cited a book written by the founder of the Museum of Northern Arizona in its description of the katsinas, which Hopi artists commonly depict in carved, wooden figures and sell. The museum’s director, Robert Breunig, appealed to the sense of decency and humanity in asking that the auction be called off.

RESULTS

Continued from Page 1

decision.

“Had the committee limited its inquiry to that set out by tribal law, only one ballot would have been invalidated,” Walker wrote in his decision. “This one vote would not have changed the outcome of any elections. An effort to challenge all aspects of the entire election is not supported in the record. Thus, the decision was not supported by any reasonable interpretation of the admissible evidence and therefore cannot stand.”

Automated Election Services representative Terry Rainey certified the results March 28 in accordance with the tribe’s election code and the winners were sworn in.

However, at the tribe’s April 2 business committee meeting, Seneca-Cayuga Chief LeRoy Howard refused to recognize the individuals sworn in the week before because the business committee had not scheduled the ceremony.

In a letter to tribal citizens dated March 28, Howard announced that the election is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs due to allegations of voter fraud.

“I am deeply saddened by this crisis in constitutional government that (a) faction of our people are creating,” Howard wrote. “I am embarrassed at the attempts form (sic) an ‘alternative government’ and how this appears to our business and other partners outside the tribe. The instability created by these reckless actions could have dire effects on our government, our government businesses and services to our people.”

The Seneca-Cayuga Election Commission filed a request for a stay on March 28. A date has not been announced for that hearing.

The tribe, headquartered near Grove, Okla., has an enrollment of about 5,000 citizens and a separate election scheduled for June 1.

Panel: Offensive names on reservation should go

CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) – A South Dakota panel charged with scrubbing the state of offensive place names has recommended that two creeks, a dam and two other geographical features on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation be renamed to reflect the area’s traditional use for deer hunting.

The state Board on Geographic Names is proposing that the locations – all of which feature a variation of the phrase “Squaw Humper” – get new names in the Lakota language. For example, Squaw Humper Creek would instead be Tahc’a Okute Wakpa, which translates to Deer Hunting Ground Creek.

The names were suggested by Oglala Sioux tribal officials at a March 28 hearing on the reservation. The state Board on Geographic Names will seek public

comment on the proposed names before taking a final vote in June. The names then would be submitted to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which has the final say on naming places.

The renaming of the five features in northwestern Shannon County is the second case in which the state board has used a new process aimed at increasing public involvement in changing offensive names for places, mostly features that use the terms “Negro” or “Squaw” but are so small they do not appear on most maps. The board recently recommended that Negro Creek in Meade County be renamed Howe’s Creek because it’s near the community of Howes.

The board’s chairman, state Secretary of Tribal Relations J.R. LaPlante, said the panel is grateful for the grassroots effort by historian Wilmer Mesteth and other officials of the Oglala Sioux Tribe’s Historic Preservation Office to find culturally appropriate replacement names.

“Really, we were just ecstatic as a board to see the involvement. And of course, the names being recommended were in the original native tongue. It was just an exciting day for us,” LaPlante said.

Joyce Whiting, project review officer for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, said she is happy the state board accepted the Lakota names proposed for the creeks and other features.

“Years ago, all the names – all the creeks, the buttes, everything – they were in Lakota,” Whiting said. “It’s something for me to witness this and to be a part of it.”

The features being renamed apparently got their original names because a man lived in the area with two Native American women, Whiting said.

The 2001 South Dakota Legislature passed a law to start eliminating offensive names, and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has since changed the names of 20 places in

the state. Another state law passed in 2009 listed 15 names that hadn’t been changed and created the new state board to tackle the job.

However, the federal board has deferred action on some name changes, partly because it said the state had not sufficiently involved the public in renaming geographic features.

Next, the state board will seek new names for some places in Custer County, located in the southwestern corner of the state.

Whiting said tribal officials also would like to see something done about places with names that do not meet the official definition of offensive, but bother Native Americans. Some places named for military officers sent to the area to subdue American Indians more than a century ago should also be known by their Lakota names, she said.

the public aware and Native community aware that the commission exists and that we’re here to help wherever we can and facilitate or moderate a solution to an issue that any individual or organization may have.”

The next meeting is 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 16, in Tulsa City Hall, 175 E. 2nd Street, in the 2nd floor council chambers. For more information, call (918) 704-2200 or email gtaiacinfo@gmail.com.

To learn more details about GTIAC and its members, visit www.cityoftulsa.org online and click on the “community programs” tab to access “human rights” and select “commissions” or go directly to <https://www.cityoftulsa.org/community-programs/human-rights/commissions/greater-tulsa-area-indian-affairs-commission.aspx>

ANQUOE

Continued from Page 1

(one of the founders of the Tulsa Indian Club) and then mayor Dewey Bartlett Sr.

One of the commission’s long-time issues has been Native American-themed mascots and other negative stereotypes of Native people. Members held forums for the community to attend and presented a Native perspective.

The GTIAC still looks at such long-standing issues, but it has also taken steps in recent years to impact Tulsa’s Indian community through programs of direct aid.

Sammy Haynes, Kiowa and Muscogee Creek, is an appointee of the Tulsa Indian Club (which hosts the annual Tulsa Powwow). Current GTIAC chairman, Haynes said the commission hopes to partner with the Alliance for Economic Inclusion, an initiative

of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to bring financial planning workshops to better educate Indian families and individuals on fiscal planning. There is a great need to promote financial stability for Indian communities, especially in the current economic climate, Haynes said.

“Some (in the community) were never taught as kid,” Haynes said. “You have to think forward.”

The commission’s hopes include partnerships with banks and a credit union in addition to education and information accessibility.

Anquoe added that the commission can touch on issues of Native sovereignty, providing a much needed voice to city leaders regarding laws specific to tribes. He offered the example of the Kialegee Tribal Town’s steps to build a casino in Broken Arrow. The City of Broken Arrow supported area residents against the tribal

town’s proposed Red Clay Casino. Construction has been halted by a preliminary injunction, but an appeal has been filed with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

He said he believes the City of Tulsa, as well as the county, could have offered to moderate discussions between all parties to work out a solution based on an understanding of law and priorities.

“The city council, both Tulsa County and Tulsa city, they really didn’t have a good idea of tribal governments, how they work, sovereignty, tribal lands as it pertains to trust property, restricted property.

They didn’t know how to deal with it in BA. It was really evident,” Anquoe said.

Anquoe is also hoping the commission will do more to encourage Native communities to vote and become active in government, tribal or not.

“Take the next step.

Don’t be afraid to voice your opinion. Go up to those tribal governments and respectfully state your opinion. Be a part of the process. Learn about it. Educate yourself about that process,” he said.

The advocacy Anquoe wants could help the commission meet a just-as-significant challenge – making the community aware of the commission’s presence and its objectives.

Haynes said he wants the public to know GTIAC meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to bring issues forward are welcome. This is especially important since Gov. Mary Fallin disbanded Oklahoma’s Indian Affairs Commission in 2011 and replaced it with a liaison.

“We want to create an awareness of the commission. It’s the last municipal and government commission still functioning,” Haynes said. “One of goals is to get

the public aware and Native community aware that the commission exists and that we’re here to help wherever we can and facilitate or moderate a solution to an issue that any individual or organization may have.”

The next meeting is 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 16, in Tulsa City Hall, 175 E. 2nd Street, in the 2nd floor council chambers. For more information, call (918) 704-2200 or email gtaiacinfo@gmail.com.

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EVENTS

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*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci.Phillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihccr.org

THROUGH APRIL 15
Pawnee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at your local VITA site, 400 Agency Road HCS Bldg. (Old IHS Clinic). For more information or to make an appointment, call M. Angela Thompson at (918) 399-5156

THROUGH APRIL 16
Pawnee Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly volunteer tax return preparation Mon, Weds and Friday by appointment only and Tues and Thurs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Info call Nancy Moore, site coordinator, at (918) 399-2034.

THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013
All Things Comanche, a three-part exhibition celebrating the history and culture of the great Comanche Nation. Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, Okla. 580-353-0404 or www.comanchemuseum.com

APRIL 13
Rose State College Contest Powwow, RSC Student Center, 6420 S.E. 15; Midwest City, OK (405) 736-0347 or aneitzel@rose.edu. Free and open to the public.

Talihina Festival Powwow at Talihina School Gym, HWY 1 & 271. Gourd Dancing at 2 and 6pm. Grand Entry and Intertribal Dances 7-10pm. Arts & Crafts, concessions, raffles, door prizes, more. Free Admission. Bring your powwow chairs. Info call Carol James, 918-567-2539

APRIL 17-21
The Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, a traveling three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be on display at the Sequoyah High School Football Field, 17091 S. Muskogee Avenue in Tahlequah

APRIL 20
40th Anniversary of Wounded Knee and American Indian Movement Dance honoring Carter Camp, at White Eagle, Okla. Gourd Dancing starts at 2pm and 6:30 pm. War Dancing at 7pm.

APRIL 20
Tulsa Indian Health Care Resource Center contest powwow, 2pm, west side YMCA 5400 S. Olympia, Tulsa. Contests in adult, jr and golden age. All are welcome. Call Tim Shadlow for info: 918-382-2217

APRIL 26
Veteran enrollment and information sharing event, 10am-2pm at Ponca Tribal Affairs Building, White Eagle, Okla. (Hwy 177). Bring a copy of your DD Form 214. More info call Jo Ann, 580-765-2501, ext. 2232

APRIL 27
Kiowa Princess Election Powwow at Red Buffalo Hall in Carnegie. Info call 580-699-4450.

MAY 7-8
Mother Earth's People Inter-tribal Council Powwow at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, 18000 Yates Road, Victorville, CA. For more info, contact Moreena Rocha Chavez at 1-760-245-2398 or at e-mail moreenac@yahoo.com.

MAY 11
GrayHorse War Mothers Soldier Dance. Contact: Mary Elsberry melsberry@hotmail.com
Flag Raising at 1:30 War Dances at 7:30

APRIL 20
Arrowhead Powwow at McAlester Expo, 270 West of town. Gourd Dancing begins at 3pm, Grand Entry at 6:30pm.

Honor Dance for Choctaw Nation
Councilman Bob Pate. Info call Dena Cantrell, 918-423-0368.

MAY 18
2011-2012 Osage Princess, Dora Josephine Williams, Honor Dance, sponsored by the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, at the Pawhuska Fairgrounds Building, Pawhuska, OK. Info call 918-885-2976.

The Chokka Kilimpi department within the Youth and Family Division of The Chickasaw Nation is sponsoring a 5K Run, participants wanted. For more information, contact Sallie Wallace at (580) 221-3775.

MAY 31
Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 8
Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 21
Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com
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Kiowa author finally sees children’s book published

NATIVE TIMES
Staff Report

NORMAN, Okla. – A goal Modina (Toppah) Waters set 12 years ago came to fruition April 1 at the annual Native American Language Fair held at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. The bi-lingual book of Kiowa trickster stories she created was finally published and in the hands of Kiowa and other Native children.

Waters’ full-color illustrated book, Saynday Kiowa Indian Children’s

Museum, the University of Oklahoma and the KIOWA KIDS language program with assistance from the Endangered Language Fund.

The finished product is engaging, humorous and in an easy-to-read format for all ages.

“It is my hope that this book will contribute to the language revitalization efforts which are occurring in Indian communities across North America,” Waters said.

The first 250 copies

“I am pleased that the language fair includes literary categories. The books, the poetry, the comics, the artwork, in addition to the oral presentations, make for an incredible venue to promote our tribal languages,” Waters said.

“At this wonderful venue the Kiowa people, through our various community language programs, are showing truly that the Kiowa language will continue for many years to come. And the same can be said for the many other tribal languages I heard today at the Fair.”

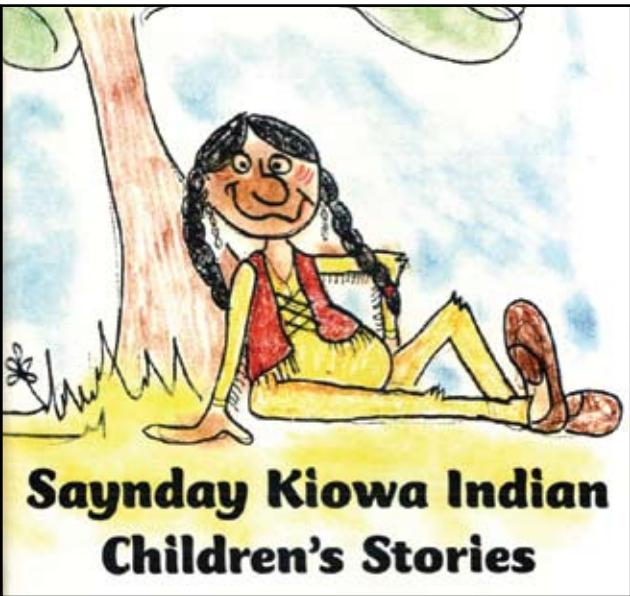
A copy of Saynday Kiowa Indian Children’s Stories was also given to all the language programs in attendance at the fair and to a number of families engaged in language at home activities.

“My parents would be so very proud,” Waters said. “As my mom would say, BAY P’AY TDAY! Never give up!”

More information on the book Saynday Kiowa Indian Children’s Stories can be found at the KIOWA KIDS website: www.kiowakids.net

The book can be purchased for \$20 by mailing check or money order to: KIOWA KIDS, 1917 Pelham Circle, Norman, OK 73071. All proceeds go towards promoting Kiowa language activities.

More information on the book Saynday Kiowa Indian Children’s Stories or information for bulk order discounts can be found at the KIOWA KIDS website: www.kiowakids.net



COURTESY PHOTO

It took 12 years, but Modina (Toppah) Waters got to see her book of traditional Kiowa stories published and given to Kiowa children April 1 during the Oklahoma Native Language Fair held in Norman.

Stories, is based on the tales she grew up with – the stories her late mother, Lucille Ataddeley Toppah, told her of the trickster Saynday and his antics.

Although the initial draft and illustrations for the book were composed more than 12 years ago, it was only recently published thanks to the Sam Noble

were donated to various community organizations, families, and individuals - including the Kiowa Tribe Child Care Center; Kiowa Tribe Head Start; KIOWA KIDS participant families and board/panel members; Norman Public Schools Indian Education, and Anadarko Public Schools Indian Education.



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FAIR

Continued from Page 1

tragedy, but they’re generally not recording is that there are all of these younger kids that are learning their languages,” she said. “And there is a lot of really good second-language learners who speak very fluently on a conversational basis that are in their 20s, 30s that are really learning the language, and they are helping with teaching the children. So I think the languages are actually getting stronger in people wanting to use the language and working to use

a coordinator the past three, she’s also witnessed more students and tribal program participation.

“It seems like it’s growing every year,” she said. “I think that a lot of our tribes have realized that their language is dying. I think it started back when bilingual programs started. I think people started realizing how the language was going away... And I think that’s the reason that they decided the language should go on.”

Armer said it’s a wonderful thing, seeing more children each year at language fair because it means more children are interested in saving Native languages.

being patient, teaching this language, because if this younger generation do not take over our part, we won’t have any languages no more and how can we prove that we are really Native American unless somebody takes over and teaches these children to learn their language so they can speak later on as they grow up.”

Linn said honoring Native language teachers and students were two big reasons why she, Roman Nose and Navarro started the language fair.

“Well, I was hired as the curator for Native American languages and I really wanted to do a couple of things. One

a vital part of everyday life in the communities. I also wanted to honor the teachers who I had been working with for many years through teacher-training programs, and I knew they were working without very much curriculum, without very much support, sometimes no monetary support at all, paying for all their own materials. So I really wanted to honor them for trying to teach the languages under these circumstances. And then also the students to really give them support and boost and try to make them feel that there were other kids out there, maybe in other tribes, but that there were other kids out there that were doing the same things that they were doing.”

Apparently, those messages have gotten out. This year’s fair had 45 Native languages represented by 63 tribal language programs, schools or family groups. And of the 921 students who competed, more than 500 actually attended the fair at the Sam Noble Museum.

Linn said many students submit entries in competitions such as book or poster categories that don’t require their attendance in Norman. Other categories that don’t require attendance include essay, power point, comic books, written poetry and film and video screening. They are considered the non-performance categories and awarded first through third place prizes as well as an honorable mention prize. And all students who submit entries into those categories but do not attend still receive language fair T-shirts.

The performance categories include individual spoken language, group spoken language, group song, individual song and poetry performed. All the

categories are broken down by age groups and then again by small and large groups. Trophies were awarded for the performance categories for first, second and third place, and all students received participation medals.

Linn said she doesn’t think there is a group or school that dominates the competition

class won the Pre-K through Second Grade Large Group category by singing “I’ll Fly Away.”

“I think it’s very good for the children. They get a chance to display their language and it gives them confidence to get up in front of a group. A lot of our kids are really shy. I think it’s just good for them,” Chaudoin



NATIVE TIMES PHOTOS

Kiowa Kids, 3rd-5th grade, perform Tdine Kheiyetdaw Gyah! (Star Wars!) April 1. Students left to right are: Oh-hah-moe Pedro, Kowi Sunray, Tdohasan Sunray, and Thaumaro Connywerdy. They took home the first place trophy for the Large Group Spoken Language category.

the language.”

Christine Armer, Sam Noble Museum Native American youth language coordinator and Cherokee language instructor at the University of Oklahoma, said as a language fair judge for the first eight years and

“I feel, from my heart, I feel that’s the greatest thing because my grandfather told me one time ‘if you lose your language, you lose who you are,’” she said. “So it makes me feel good that all these parents and teachers are taking their time and

of them was to show that Native languages are still living and they’re not just put into a museum and forgotten about,” she said. “So I really wanted to show that children were acquiring the languages, they were learning the languages, and that they were



NATIVE TIMES PHOTO

Comanche Nation Youth Program children singing Comanche hymns for the 3rd -5th grade Small Group category

annually, but there are programs that work towards the competition each year. One of those groups is the Cherokee Nation Immersion School, a pre-K through eighth grade charter school where teachers and students speak only Cherokee.

Denise Chaudoin, a kindergarten teacher at the school, said her classes have competed four years and they have always brought home trophies.

“Every group that I’ve had we’ve either come in first or second, and I think most of the others have done first, second or third,” she said. “I see other people winning, too, but I don’t believe any of our kids have ever come home without some kind of award.”

This year was no different as Chaudoin’s kindergarten

said. “They have sung it with me and without me. They could have sung it today without me. I just kind of mouth the words and keep the beat, but they know the song. They can sing it by themselves.”

She said likes her students to participate in the language fair because it helps preserve the Cherokee language, they get to see other parts of the state and they see other children learning other Native languages.

“It just broadens their scope, I think, all around,” she said.

– More information, contest winners and photos will be posted on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Native-American-Youth-Language-Fair. Other great photos are on www.kiowakids.net



PHOTO COURTESY TERI-LEE RHOADES
Whitney Roach, Sinihele Rhoades and Onendanegaea Rhoades brought home a total of nine awards from the recent national competition in Albuquerque, NM.

3 Sequoyah students win big at National American Indian Science, Engineering Fair

TERI-LEE RHOADES
Reader Submission

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Two Sequoyah Schools Middle School students and one Sequoyah Schools Immersion student brought home a total of nine awards from the 2013 National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair. The fair had 327 entries from all over the U.S.

Whitney Roach of Tahlequah, an eighth grade student who is the daughter of George and Lisa Roach, won 3rd place in the Plant Sciences. She presented her research evaluating the strength of paper towels which also won her a medal for 1st in the Industrial Engineering as well as a plaque for Category Winner in Engineering at the Cherokee Nation Science and Engineering Fair in January of this year.

Onendanegaea Rhoades of Park Hill, an eighth grade student who is the son of Teri-Lee Rhoades, won 3rd place in Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering Engineering for 8th grade. He also won one of six IBM Innovation awards given to students from 5th through 12th grades. Onendanegaea shared his findings on the effect of chemically created mirror surfaces and mirror film applied to parabolic glass bowls he created in order to produce a 3-D

mirage hologram. Sinihele Rhoades of Park Hill, a fifth grade student who is the daughter of Teri-Lee Rhoades, won 1st place in Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical, Grade 5 category. She then went on to win one of the six IBM Innovation awards, Richard LaCourse Memorial Award, New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering Award, Traditional Award: Honorable Mention and an award from the U.S. Air Force. Her project was the creation of an automaton that portrays Uktena, a flying snake of Cherokee legend. The automaton is created from wooden pieces and forms a flying snake when put into motion by turning a handle. “I hope this brings attention to the need for science in our schools,” Sinihele said. Holly Davis, Sequoyah Schools Charter School principal, acknowledged the student’s accomplishments. “The awards received at the 2013 NISEF are reflective of the hard work these students put in throughout the year,” she said.

– Sequoyah Schools includes the Sequoyah Charter School which umbrellas the Sequoyah Middle School grades 7 & 8 and the Sequoyah Immersion Elementary School which is a Cherokee speaking and writing school.

Native play festival adds even more to this year’s entertainment lineup

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – A story set in a tribal foster home is at the heart of the Native American New Play Festival, the annual two-week event of Native culture and theater arts in Oklahoma City.

Chalk in the Rain, a play by Bret Jones, anchors the festival hosted by Oklahoma City Theatre Company. It runs April 11-21 in the CitySpace Theatre of Oklahoma City Civic Center Music Hall, 201 N. Walker Ave., Oklahoma City.

Last year’s festival was such a success that organizers this year sought to add even more offerings to audiences this year, said Rachel Irick, OKC Theatre Company artistic director.

“Our goal is always to build bridges,” she said. “Since I’ve been doing this festival, I’ve been learning and learning, but we’ve always wanted it to do more. We hope to continue to give it over to as many Native American people as possible.”

The festival’s first weekend includes performances at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (April 11-13) and at 2 p.m. Sunday (April 14) of Chalk in the Rain.

Inspired by a newspaper article he read about his tribe’s foster home facing

the threat of closure, Jones, Muskogee-Creek, said he set his play around a foster in the same circumstances.

In the play, a woman working for a radio station returns to the institution where she grew up when the station holds a fundraiser to benefit the home. As she remembers back to her time at the home, she thinks back to her roommate and a man there with whom she had a relationship and considers the choices she made as a resident and those made on her behalf.

The drama is recommended for viewers teen and up.

Originally from Lindsey, Okla., Jones is the program director for theater at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kans. He has written plays for more than 20 years - good stories in contemporary settings and dealing with Native identity.

Chalk in the Rain was one of three plays presented at the 2012 festival as staged readings. Of those readings, Jones’ work was chosen as this year’s main stage production.

“It’s certainly an honor,” Jones said. “I think it’s great that there’s a place in the middle of Indian Country down there that’s giving playwrights a chance to share their work. There aren’t a lot of places that really look at Native American theater. There aren’t a lot of theaters around willing to invest in

theater like that.” Irick said the OKC Theatre Company’s goal is to make the Native American New Play Festival a known success across the country and a must-see event special to Oklahoma.

“It’s meant a lot to me personally to learn a lot about Native American history in the time working on the festival, and I want others to have the same experience and appreciate what we have,” Irick said.

Several additions have been made to this year’s festival. Vickie Lynn Moodie will perform her one-woman monologue piece Sparrow at 8 p.m. April 18-20 prior to the performance of Chalk in the Rain. The piece commemorates the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 from Native American perspective.

The festival’s second weekend also features Caddo and Comanche singing as well as the staged readings of three plays being considered for full-stage treatment at next year’s festival. There will also be storytelling, a welcome reception and opportunities to meet the playwrights.

Tickets are \$10 for Thursday’s opening night performance. They are \$17-\$20 for the remainder of the run. For a complete festival schedule or to purchase tickets, visit www.myticketoffice.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OKC THEATRE
Actors begin rehearsals for the staged readings at this year’s Native American New Play Festival, which opens Thursday at the Oklahoma City Civic Center Music Hall.



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Inside this issue:

- Maria Tallchief dies at 88
- Choctaw author visits school
- Former coach recalls Shoni at 11



NATIVE TIMES

Senate endorses Sally Jewell for Interior chief

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Sally Jewell, CEO of outdoor retailer Recreational Equipment Inc., won easy Senate confirmation April 10 to be the nation’s next

Interior secretary. The Senate approved her nomination, 87-11, with all the no votes coming from Republicans.SenateMinority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., was among those who opposed Jewell. At the Interior, Jewell

will oversee more than 500 million acres of national parks and other public lands, plus more than 1 billion acres offshore. The lands are used for energy development, mining, recreation and other purposes. One of the first challenges

Jewell will face is a proposed rule requiring companies that drill for oil and natural gas on federal lands to publicly disclose chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations. The administration proposed a draft “fracking”

rule last year, but twice has delayed a final rule amid complaints by the oil and gas industry that the original proposal was too burdensome. A new draft is expected this spring. Jewell also is expected to continue to push

development of renewable energy such as wind and solar power, both of which are priorities of the interior secretary she succeeds, Ken Salazar. President Barack Obama

See **JEWELL** on Page 2



A French supporter of the Hopi cause, left, holds an American Indian Movement flag and Bo Lomahquahu, an American exchange student and citizen of the Arizona’s Hopi Tribe, right, stand outside of the Druout’s auction house to protest the auction of Native American Hopi tribe masks on April 12 in Paris. A contested auction of dozens of Native American tribal masks went ahead that afternoon following a Paris court ruling, in spite of appeals for a delay by the Hopi tribe, its supporters, and the U.S. government.

MICHEL EULER | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Hopi masks sold in Paris auction

THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) – In a chaotic auction repeatedly interrupted by protests, dozens of Native American tribal masks were sold April 12 after a French court ignored the objections of the Hopi tribe and the U.S. government.

The total tally was 931,000 euros (\$1.2 million), with the most expensive, the “Mother Crow” mask, selling for 160,000 euros (\$209,000) – more than three times the pre-sale estimate. Of the 70 masks up for sale, one was bought by an association to give back to the Hopis, the Drouot

auction house said. Advocates for the Hopi tribe had argued in court the masks have special status and are not art – they represent their dead ancestors’ spirits. The Hopis, a Native American tribe whose territory is surrounded by Arizona, nurture the masks as if they are the living dead.

But the auctioneer insisted any move to block the sale could have broad repercussions for the art market in general and potentially force French museums to empty their collections of indigenous works. The Katsinam, or

See **HOPi** on Page 4

Trials set for social workers in Cherokee child’s death

MITCH WEISS
Associated Press

BRYSON CITY, N.C. (AP) – In a case that stunned this North Carolina community, trials are set to begin April 15 for two social service workers accused of trying to cover up the agency’s role after a child’s death. Candice Lassiter, 30, is charged with three counts each of obstruction of justice and forgery related to the police investigation of 15-month-old Aubrey Kina-Marie Littlejohn’s 2011 death. Craig Smith, 28, is charged with three counts of obstruction of justice in the death of the girl, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Lassiter and Smith worked for the Department of Social Services in Swain County – where part of the Cherokees’ sprawling reservation lies.

Prosecutors say after Aubrey’s death, Lassiter ordered Smith, a subordinate, to falsify records to make it appear that the department had done a thorough job investigating allegations that the girl had been abused. The case is unusual. Social workers are rarely charged in connection with the death of a child under their supervision, said Doriane Coleman, an expert on children’s law at Duke University Law School. Even then, she said, “the usual facts are the little kid died, the social workers knew something about it and didn’t take care of it.” “This is a case where social workers are accused of falsifying documents and obstructing justice after the fact. They’re not being prosecuted for failure to take care of the little girl while she was alive. They’re being prosecuted

for ... what they did after she died to protect themselves,” Coleman said. The death of Aubrey polarized western North Carolina and sparked anger in the Native American community. She died after she was rushed to the hospital by great-aunt Ladybird Powell, who began taking care of Aubrey in 2010, shortly before the toddler’s mother reported to jail in a marijuana-trafficking case. Powell told doctors she had put the girl to bed and, when she checked on her a few hours later, she wasn’t breathing. A state medical examiner said Aubrey died of undetermined causes, but noted bruises and broken bones. Some in the tribe say the Department of Social Services didn’t do enough to protect her. Led by

See **TRIALS** on Page 4

NICWA to feds: leave ICW alone

■ Dusten Brown, a Cherokee Nation citizen, was awarded custody of his daughter, “Baby Veronica,” in 2011 after a non-Native couple attempted to adopt her in South Carolina.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CATOOSA, Okla. – Members of the National Indian Child Welfare Association asked for a federal law to be left intact April 8 at its national convention in Oklahoma as a Nowata family prepares to go before the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Dusten Brown, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, was awarded custody of his daughter, “Baby Veronica,” in 2011 after a non-Native South Carolina couple attempted to adopt her and had physical custody of her for two years. After a South Carolina family court denied their petition due to the

terms of the Indian Child Welfare Act, the prospective adoptive couple appealed the decision to the South Carolina Supreme Court and then the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral arguments in Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl are set for April 16. “We understand that this threat to the Brown family is a threat to all of our Native families and children,” NICWA president Gil Vigil said at a press conference at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. “When they try to break up one loving Indian home, we understand that this could lead to the break up of countless others.” Passed in 1978 in response to the high percentage

See **NICWA** on Page 3



COURTESY PHOTO
Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown works on a puzzle with daughter Veronica.

Gov. Mary Fallin: No compact extensions

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Gov. Mary Fallin has denied a request from 22 tribal leaders for additional time to negotiate tribal tobacco compacts. On March 18, 22 tribal leaders signed a letter to the governor’s office, requesting current compacts be extended through August

2017. Tobacco compacts for 28 of Oklahoma’s 39 federally recognized tribes expire June 30. So far, the Kaw Nation and the Boswell administration of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are the only ones to sign new compacts, which take effect July 1. Despite tribal leaders’ request for a response by April 3, Fallin replied via

See **FALLIN** on Page 3

County leaders in New Mexico support return of Fort Sill Apaches

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

AKELA, N.M. – The Dona Ana County Board of Commissioners formally approved resolutions April 9 in support of an Oklahoma tribe’s attempts to return to its pre-removal homeland and open a casino.

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe, currently headquartered in Apache, Okla., is trying to open a casino off of Interstate 40 near Akela to encourage some of its 700 citizens to return to the tribe’s pre-removal homeland. The federal government moved the tribe to southwestern Oklahoma from southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona in 1886 as prisoners of war.

“We welcome the Fort Sill Apache Tribe home to southwestern New Mexico,” Commissioner Wayne Hancock said. “We look forward to the jobs and economic impact the tribe will bring to our community.”

The tribe maintains an office in Deming and has a 30-acre parcel of trust land 40 miles west of Las Cruces. Purchased in 1998 for \$30,000 and placed into trust in 2002, the 30 acres has not been deemed eligible for gaming so the tribe is seeking approval under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The Mescalero Apache, which operates a casino about 150 miles away from the proposed Fort Sill Apache facility, have expressed opposition to the project.

“I am pleased that the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners recognizes our rights as a sovereign nation and supports our return to New Mexico,” Fort Sill Apache Chairman Jeff Haozous said. “As we continue to fight to regain the rights that are naturally and historically ours, the passing of this resolution affirms support from our neighboring community. At the appropriate time, we look forward to receiving support from the governor as well.”



A sign marks Fort Sill Apache lands in New Mexico. FILE PHOTO

Judge rules against Wyandotte Nation claim on Kansas land for casino site

ROXANA HEGEMAN
Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) – A judge refused April 10 to order the federal government to accept into trust the Park City land where the Wyandotte Nation wants to build a casino near Wichita.

The ruling handed down means it will be up to the Interior Department to decide the issue – under the watchful eye of the court.

U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson said she would retain jurisdiction until the department issues a final ruling on the Wyandotte Nation’s request.

She ordered the Interior secretary to provide quarterly reports to the court on the processing of the tribe’s application, with the first report due in 90 days.

The dispute centers over 10.5 acres of land near Park City that the tribe bought in 1992. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act allows tribes to conduct gambling only on Indian lands, which are defined as land within its reservation or held in trust by the U.S.

Wyandotte Nation, formerly known as the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma, contended in its lawsuit that after it received federal recognition in 1978, it needed to reacquire lands lost as a result of “failed federal policies.”

The Wyandotte Nation contends it bought the Park City land using money Congress set aside to buy property to put into trust for the tribe’s benefit.

The tribe argued the Interior Department therefore had a “mandatory duty” to take the land into trust.

But Robinson disagreed that the tribe had proved that point, noting an audit finding which showed those trust funds didn’t contain enough money for the tribe to have purchased both the Park City land and another tract where it opened a gambling hall in downtown Kansas City. She said a determination on the factual question of whether the tribe purchased the land falls outside her authority.

The court agreed with the Interior secretary’s decision to reassess its review of the tribe’s application.

The judge also found that the Interior secretary’s actions do not constitute unreasonable delay, precluding any finding of malfeasance.

Robinson’s decision retained only jurisdiction on the tribe’s claim of unreasonable delay raised in the lawsuit, and her demand for the quarterly progress reports is meant to ensure that the Interior Department timely processes the tribe’s application.

Court of Indian Offenses hears motion to stay Seneca-Cayuga election results

■ An Eastern Oklahoma Court of Indian Offenses appellate magistrate in March overturned a decision from the court’s trial division, ruling to certify the June 2012 winners.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times



Seneca-Cayuga Chief LeRoy Howard

MIAMI, Okla. – The Court of Indian Offenses heard a request April 11 to stay a March 25 decision to seat the winners of the 2012 Seneca-Cayuga election.

Last month, Appellate Magistrate Tom Walker with the Eastern Oklahoma region’s Court of Indian Offenses overturned a decision from the court’s trial division and ruled that the tribe’s Election Commission must certify the results from the tribe’s June 2, 2012, election, seat the eight winners and post the vote tallies in accordance with the tribe’s election laws.

The 2012 election was for Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Business Committee member, Fourth Business Committee member, Second Grievance Committee member, Fourth grievance Committee member, Third Claims Committee member and Fourth Claims Committee member.

The tribe’s June 2012 election results were originally set aside after a challenge was filed over the notarization on a single absentee ballot, submitted by a tribal citizen who was in jail on the date written on notarization oath portion of the ballot.

After verifying the notary had not administered the oath in jail, the Election Commission chose to review the other seven ballots notarized by the same person and disallowed all 70 absentee ballots cast, a move overruled in Walker’s decision.

In a letter to tribal citizens dated March 28, Chief LeRoy Howard announced that the election is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs due to allegations of voter fraud.

A spokesman for the FBI’s Oklahoma City office declined to confirm or deny the claim.

Along with the request for a stay, the Election Commission’s attorneys have requested that the lawsuit either be dismissed or remanded to the trial court level with Howard, the Seneca-Cayuga Business Committee and election administrator Terry Rainey officially added as part of a

new trial.

As part of their response filed April 11, the eight winners argued the election administrator, rather than the Election Commission, is responsible for certifying the results and that the March

25 ruling should be enforced.

In July 2012, the Seneca-Cayuga Business Committee adopted a resolution naming Railey, an Automated Election Services representative, the sole administrator of the tribe’s elections.

After Walker’s decision was handed down, Rainey signed a copy of the results March 28 and the winners were sworn in. However, in a separate letter to Anderson dated April 2, Rainey wrote that the signed copy was not him certifying the results.

“Per our discussion, I was notified by Mr. Raymond Rodgers by phone and by a Mr. Weidman by email that an Election Committee had been appointed and had certified the results of the 2012 election,” Rainey wrote. “I was asked to provide a signed copy of the original election results which I did. I have not issued any certification of the election.”

Rainey did not return calls for comment or further explanation. His company, based out of Rio Rancho, N.M., has previously contracted with the Seneca-Cayuga Election Board and was the contractor in the protracted 2011 Cherokee Nation election.

With the election results still in limbo, the tribe’s finances with the Bank of Oklahoma remain in order and are not on the brink of closure, despite a press release stating otherwise.

“No, we didn’t threaten to block the accounts,” BOK spokeswoman Andrea Myers said. “The bank made special accommodations for the tribe to ensure its business continued uninterrupted while the dispute between the parties was resolved. We encouraged the parties to reach an agreement on the sensible handling of the accounts, and they are now doing that in good faith.”

The tribe, headquartered near Grove has an enrollment of about 5,000 citizens and a separate election scheduled for June 1.

JEWELL

Continued from Page 1

nominated Jewell last month to replace Salazar, who announced his departure in January.

Obama said in a statement Tuesday that Jewell’s extensive business experience – including her work as a petroleum engineer – and her longtime commitment to conservation made Jewell the right person for the job.

“She brings an important mix of strong management skills, appreciation for our nation’s tradition of protecting our public lands and heritage, and a keen understanding of what it means to be good stewards of our natural resources,” Obama said.

Jewell, 57, of Seattle, also was a banker before taking over Kent, Wash.-based REI in 2005. She also served on the board of the National Parks Conservation Association, an advocacy group that works to protect and enhance national parks.

Jewell has made it clear she intends to strike a balance between the dual roles



Sally Jewell, the new Department of Interior secretary, is introduced by President Barack Obama. AP PHOTO

of conserving and developing resources, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said. “That’s exactly the right approach to take on the diverse issues facing Interior, including safely developing natural gas, maximizing jobs and opportunities from recreation and improving management of federal forests.”

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said she worked with Jewell on wilderness legislation in Washington state and was confident Jewell “will bring her skills as an effective CEO in the business community to the Cabinet.”

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“Where every day is Indian Day”

Ballet legend Maria Tallchief dies at 88

CARYN ROUSSEAU
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) – Maria Tallchief, one of America's first great prima ballerinas who gave life to such works as "The Nutcracker," "Firebird," and other masterpieces from legendary choreographer George Balanchine, has died. She was 88.

Tallchief died April 11 in Chicago. Tallchief danced with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo from 1942 to 1947, but her career was most associated with the New York City Ballet, where she worked from 1948 to 1965. Balanchine, the Russian-born dance genius, was not only the company's director; in 1946, he became Tallchief's husband for some years.

She told Women's Wear Daily in 2003 that when she first worked with Balanchine she thought, "I am seeing music. This is it!" I was a musician myself, and I thought, 'I am in my place now.' I knew that that's the way I wanted to dance."

Tallchief was one of five Oklahoma natives of American Indian descent who rose to prominence in the ballet world from the 1940s through the 1960s. She retired in 1965, when she started teaching the next generation of dancers.

"My mother was a ballet legend, who was proud of her Osage heritage," Paschen said in a statement. "Her dynamic presence lit up the room. I will miss her passion, commitment to her art and devotion to her family. She raised the bar high and strove for excellence in everything she did."

Tallchief created roles in many of Balanchine's ballets, including "Orpheus," in 1948, and "Scotch Symphony," in 1952. She was the Sugar Plum Fairy in his original production of "The Nutcracker" in 1954.

Jacques d'Amboise, a former New York City Ballet dancer who

partnered with Tallchief in many performances, said she was the Mount Everest of dance.

"She was the perfect representative of the American ballerina," said d'Amboise, who with the National Dance Institute in New York. "There is one word for her: Grand. She was absolutely grand."

In the 1970s, Tallchief served as artistic director of the Lyric Opera Ballet in Chicago. She later founded and was artistic director of the Chicago City Ballet.

Kenneth von Heidecke, founder of the Chicago Festival Ballet, studied under Tallchief during the 1970s in Chicago. Tallchief was an honorary artistic adviser with the ballet. He said he owed Tallchief his career because of her meticulous training.

"She would teach classical ballet not just technically ... but she would go beyond that and tell you how the laws of physics help you achieve great elevation or great velocity," von Heidecke said.

In 1996, Tallchief became one of five artists to receive the Kennedy Center Honors for their lifelong contributions to American culture.

Tallchief was born Elizabeth Marie Tall Chief in 1925, on a reservation in Fairfax, Oklahoma, a small town about 60 miles northwest of Tulsa. Visiting teachers gave her lessons, and her mother later moved the family to Los Angeles so that she and her sister could receive additional training.

Tallchief's sister, Marjorie Tallchief, became the first American ballerina to join the permanent star roster of the Paris Opera Ballet.

In her 2005 memoir, "Maria Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina," Tallchief wrote that her first ballet lesson was in the basement of the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado, when she was 3-years-old.

"What I remember most is that



FILE PHOTO

Maria Tallchief, one of America's first great prima ballerinas, died April 11 in Chicago.

the ballet teacher told me to stand straight and turn each of my feet out to the side, the first position," Tallchief wrote. "I couldn't believe it. But I did what I was told."

Ashley Wheeler, artistic director with Chicago's Joffrey Ballet, said

Tallchief served as a role model to future dancers.

"She's an inspiration for young kids today that come from all different ethnic backgrounds to know that they too can have that opportunity," Wheeler said.

FALLIN

Continued from Page 1

email on April 4 that her office would only grant short-term extensions to tribes that are still engaged in "serious good-faith" negotiations with the state on June 30.

"We had hoped that there would have been better, more effective, and more respectful communication between the state and the tribes regarding the upcoming deadline of the tobacco compacts, which brings millions annually to the State of Oklahoma, as well as tribal treasures," Sac and Fox Chief George Thurman said. "We were doing what we were supposed to, and the state decided to move the goal post in the middle of the game."

Tribes were notified in late 2012 that their compacts would need to be renegotiated before they expire in June.

Officials with the governor's office have said they do not want to extend most favored nation clauses and border tax rates.

Under the current compacts, lower tax rates are available for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma's borders with Arkansas, Kansas or Missouri, which have lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops.

The Kaw Nation, which borders Kansas, did not have its border rates extended in its new compact.

"While we respect the right for each tribe to sign a tobacco compact to meet their needs, let us be clear that none of those compacts



Gov. Mary Fallin

are binding on the tribes in the absence of effective government-to-government consultation," Tonkawa Tribe President Don Patterson said.

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NICWA

Continued from Page 1

of Native American children unnecessarily taken from their families and placed up for adoption, ICWA allows tribes to intervene when a child who is either an enrolled tribal citizen or eligible for citizenship through at least one biological parent is placed up for adoption.

Under ICWA, adoption placement preference given to extended family members, members of the child's tribe and Native American families from other tribes.

"The Indian Child Welfare Act was designed to prevent cases like this," Cherokee Nation assistant attorney general Chrissi Ross Nimmo said. "Had it been followed, this never would have happened. Cases like this happen when someone cuts corners or tries to go around the law."

In their appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the prospective adoptive parents

question the definition of a parent and whether a non-custodial parent can invoke ICWA to block the other parent's attempt to place a child up for adoption. Under South Carolina law, Brown's parental rights were terminated when he did not provide financial support for the biological mother for the duration of her pregnancy or take steps to establish his paternity immediately after Baby Veronica's birth.

Brown's attorneys maintain that he did not know when the child was born until he was served with adoption papers four months after her birth.

"This could easily impact other areas of Indian law in an attempt to define who is Indian and who isn't," Native American Rights Fund attorney Richard Guest said.

"The adoptive couple has asked if Veronica is 'Indian enough' for ICWA to even apply.

"There is a lot at stake and it is striking to think what a loss could mean for Indian Country."

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order to:

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HOPI

Continued from Page 1

“friends,” masks made up nearly all of the 70 lots that went on display at the auction house, offering a rare public glimpse of such works in Europe. The masks are surreal faces made from wood, leather, horse hair and feathers, and painted in vivid pigments of red, blue, yellow and orange.

They date to the late 19th century and early 20th century, and are thought to have been taken from a reservation inside northern Arizona in the 1930s and 1940s.

Hopi representatives contend the items were stolen at some point, and wanted the auction house to prove otherwise.

As the auction got under way two and a half hours after the court ruling, Jo Beranger, a 52-year-old French filmmaker, yelled as auctioneers showed a 1970s image of a Hopi leader in tribal beads and holding a mask.

Beranger, told The Associated Press that the Hopi leader had since died, and it was “a scandal” and “shameful” that he was shown. Security guards escorted her out of the auction hall.

About a dozen protesters from a French group that sides with the Native Americans gathered outside – one waving the flag of the American Indian Movement.

Hopi Chairman Le Roy Shingoitewa said the judge’s decision to let the sale go on was disappointing but not unexpected.

“It’s a whole new legal field that many tribes have not truly experienced,” he said Friday. “So I think the Native American tribes in the United States are going to have to start looking at this area of being able to try to protect our cultural areas as well as sacred sites.” Shingoitewa said the tribe did not attempt to bid on the objects Friday. He said he was saddened to know that many people will treat the objects as art when they have deep religious significance to the tribe and are never up for display on the reservation.

“Maybe in their hearts, they may feel that they can return them back to the place they started and the home they had,” he said. “That would be my plea.”

After the “Mother Crow” mask dating from about 1880 was sold, a woman protester shouted “this is not merchandise, these are sacred beings!” before being pushed out of the room by a security guard and breaking into tears.

Auctioneer Gilles Neret-Minet, pressed on. He likened one mask to a clown’s face, and said the eyes of another resembled the diamond-shaped logo of French car maker Renault. He jokingly told guests the sale “is the

deal of the day.”

“I must remind people that these masks are for personal use only. If they are shown in public, they will be confiscated by the Indians, you know, they are here,” he said with a smile.

Monroe Warshaw, an art collector from New York, who bought two masks for around 28,000 euros (\$36,500) euros, said he didn’t believe the masks had been stolen from the Hopis and that the person who acquired them should be thanked, not criticized, for preserving them.

“How did they steal them? Did some antique dealer go into their house at night and steal them?” he said, as the auction was still in progress.

He added that he will “probably not” ever give them back to the Hopis as “they didn’t care for them in the first place – now they want them because they have a value.”

After the noon ruling by the judge to allow the auction, Neret-Minet had stressed he remained genuinely “concerned about the Hopi’s sadness... and would not gloat.”

He said property law nonetheless needed to be respected: “When objects are in private collections, even in the United States, they are desacralized.”

In its ruling, the court noted the Hopis ascribe “sacred value” to the masks but “clearly they cannot be assimilated to human bodies or elements of bodies of humans who exist or existed” – the sale of which would be banned in France.

The court also alluded to the 1978 U.S. legislation, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and wrote “no provisions banning the sale outside the United States of objects used in religious ceremonies or susceptible to be is applicable in France.”

Jean-Patrick Razon, France director for Survival International, an advocacy group that supports tribal peoples, said he shared the Hopis’ disappointment.

“The Hopi people have been pillaged throughout their history. We stole their land, we killed them, we violated their souls and it continues. Now, their ritual objects are being put up for auction,” Razon said.

The U.S. Ambassador to France, Charles Rivkin, tweeted in French, “I am saddened to learn that Hopi sacred cultural objects are being put up for auction today in Paris.”

Neret-Minet said the auction house has received “serious threats” ahead of the auction, and declined to comment further other than to say: “But remember this is an auction open to everyone. If anyone wants to come and buy them, they can.”

Associated Press writers Jamey Keaten in Paris and Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Arizona, contributed to this report.

Poarch Creek casino dispute moves to federal court

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) – The state Attorney General is looking to shut down tribal casinos, saying they’re public nuisances in a complaint filed in federal court.

The Montgomery Advertiser reports state officials say the Poarch Creek casinos are feature gambling

machines that violate state and federal laws. Officials say operating slot machines is illegal in the state and illegal on tribal land without an agreement with the state.

Tribal officials say the casinos are operating legal electronic bingo machine, not slot machines.

The suit was initially filed in Elmore County Circuit Court and the tribe was able to move the case from state to federal court. The Poarch Creeks are the only federally recognized tribe in Alabama and operate casinos in Atmore, Montgomery and Wetumpka.

N.C. tribe moves ahead with 2nd casino plans

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) – North Carolina’s Cherokee Indians are moving ahead with plans to build a second casino near Murphy, according to a report published Friday.

In town to speak to UNC Asheville students on tribal sovereignty issues, Principal Chief Michell Hicks told the Citizen-Times of Asheville that the Tribal Council had approved building a \$110 million casino and hotel in Cherokee County.

The Tribal Casino

Gaming Enterprise board has proposed building a casino of at least 50,000 square feet, as well as a 300-room hotel. The casino space would have up to 1,200 slot machines and 40-50 table games.

Construction could begin this summer, and Hicks said Harrah’s would have first rights on operating the new casino. The second facility would be about an hour’s drive southwest of the existing Harrah’s Cherokee resort.

Earlier this year, the

tribe completed a \$650 million expansion of the casino, which draws an estimated 3.6 million visitors annually. Those guests brought in revenues of \$386 million in 2010 – down from a peak of \$449 million in 2007, according to an economic impact study by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Harrah’s paid the tribe \$226 million in its annual distribution in 2009, according UNC. Half of the money is divided among

the tribe’s 15,000 enrolled members, while the other half goes to fund tribal services.

The new facility could draw a significant market share from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, according to Robert Mulligan, an economics professor at Western Carolina University.

“It’s going to be pretty significant for the Murphy-Andrews area, just as the first casino was for Cherokee,” Mulligan said.

Mashpee chair demands state commission disclosure

BOSTON (AP) – The chairman of an Indian tribe planning to build a casino in southeastern Massachusetts asked the state gambling commission April 11 to disclose who advised it on whether to open the region to competing projects.

Mashpee Wampanoag chairman Cedric Cromwell made his request after the Massachusetts Gaming Commission indicated last week it was ready to end the tribe’s exclusive development rights in the region.

“The ability to independently evaluate the advice given to the commission is particularly important because it seems

that the commission is choosing to ignore certain data that does not support its uninformed conclusion,” Cromwell said.

Commission chairman Steve Crosby has already declined to identify whom he spoke with, following the same request last week an attorney for the tribe.

Crosby said he spoke with legislators and staffers involved in drafting the state’s casino law so he could better understand the intent of the law.

“The one issue here is that the commission is doing everything possible to collect helpful information that will inform its decision as to how to best serve the

interests of southeastern Massachusetts,” Crosby said Thursday.

The state’s casino law created one casino license for each of three geographic regions, and gave the Wampanoag exclusive rights in the southeast. But the law also gave the commission the right to eventually open the region to commercial bids, and would-be competitors have urged them to do so.

They say the tribe can’t legally obtain the land it needs for its \$500 million project in Taunton, and even if it could, it would take years, depriving the region of needed jobs and revenues.

TRIALS

Continued from Page 1

Aubrey’s great-aunt, Ruth McCoy, family members and friends pushed police to investigate.

An Associated Press investigation found that police and social workers had been aware of reports that Aubrey was being mistreated while she was staying with the woman.

Powell, 39, of Bryson City, has since pleaded guilty in the child’s death and was sentenced two months ago

to 12 years in prison.

Lassiter and three other DSS workers were suspended with pay. Tammy Cagle, the agency’s director at the time, was fired for what county officials said were unrelated reasons.

Lassiter’s attorney, Zeyland McKinney, did not return telephone calls this week.

Smith resigned from the department shortly after Aubrey’s death and has started a landscaping business. His attorney, Rodney Hasty, said Thursday that he couldn’t discuss the case. But he said

Smith is “working hard. He’s put his head down and trying to get through this the best he can.”

David Wijewickrama, a lawyer representing Aubrey’s estate, has filed two lawsuits in connection with her death, at least one of which names the county DSS as a defendant, along with Lassiter, Smith and five other current and former social workers.

The lawsuit asks for more than \$10,000 in damages, and accuses Swain County of not doing enough to protect Native American children.

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Tribes want change to ND oil tax agreement

■ **The State Legislature turned down a similar plea by the tribe two years ago.**

JAMES MacPHERSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – Tribal leaders are pressing lawmakers for a bigger cut of oil production taxes on the Fort Berthold Reservation in western North Dakota, saying the extra money is need to fund drilling impacts unforeseen when the tribes first signed the pact with the state five years ago.

Fred Fox, vice chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, said he and several other members planned meetings with lawmakers Thursday to urge changes to the 2008 agreement that limits oil tax rates on reservation land, and spells out how the state and tribal governments share oil revenues. The amendment part of a House bill aimed at restructuring all oil taxes in the state.

The Legislature turned down a similar plea by the tribe two years ago.

“The tribe is not completely satisfied – we want it to be balanced,” Fox said Thursday. “We believe in equal share of the taxes.”

The Fort Berthold Reservation, in the heart of North Dakota’s booming oil patch, contains portions of six counties, covering more than 1,500 square miles. About 4,500 of the approximately 12,000 tribal members live on the

reservation, tribal officials say.

Since the agreement was signed, the number wells on the reservation jumped from one to about 700.

To date, the state has collected \$315 million, with the tribe getting \$201 million, said Ryan Rauschenberger, North Dakota’s deputy tax commissioner. The state’s share is divided among counties, cities, school districts and a number of state funds and programs.

North Dakota gets 80 percent of tax collections from private land on the Fort Berthold reservation, and 50 percent of the taxes from tribal trust lands that are held in trust by the federal government to benefit the tribe and individual tribal members. Under a the proposed tax structure, a 6.5 percent extraction tax and a 5 percent production tax from private or “fee land” would be split equally between the tribe and the state.

Rauschenberger said changes in a fund allocation formula that would increase the tribe’s oil tax collections by about \$81 million during the next two years.

Former Three Affiliated Tribes Chairman Marcus Levings and former Gov. John Hoeven signed the agreement in 2008 and agreed to a permanent extension of the accord in 2010. Its terms allow either the tribe or state to terminate the agreement with 30 days’ notice.

The tribes’ current chairman, Tex Hall, has told lawmakers for the past two

years that the agreement should be reworked to provide more revenue to maintain the tribes’ own road network, which is used by heavy trucks that have accompanied increased oil drilling on the reservation.

Fox said the additional revenue also is needed to help fund better health care, housing and law enforcement.

The reservation has more than 1,000 miles of Bureau of Indian Affairs roads but maintenance funding is insufficient, tribal and oil industry officials say.

Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, told the Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday that the tribe deserves a greater share of the taxes collected from reservation oil production, especially to help with road building in the region.

Ness, whose group represents more than 400 companies working in North Dakota’s oil patch, said drillers often have to build or maintain roads on the reservation, which can add as much as \$100 million annually to an oil companies’ cost.

“They are the worst roads in the oil patch,” Ness told lawmakers.

Oil drillers also worry about other increased costs that could come if the agreement is terminated, which could jeopardize drilling and “drive the industry off the reservation,” Ness said.

COMMENTARY

Investing in health care, investing in Cherokee Nation’s future

BILL JOHN BAKER
Cherokee Nation Principal Chief

Every Cherokee Nation citizen deserves a long and healthy life. I believe that means access to quality health care, and as Principal Chief, I made a commitment to our people to address this critical issue. Last year, we increased the percentage of our profits that fund health care services by an additional five percent. But that wasn’t enough. I am proud to announce the Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB) authorized \$100 million, primarily from casino profits, to fund renovations and expansions at four Cherokee Nation health centers and build a new 100 bed surgical hospital in Tahlequah, the capitol of the Cherokee Nation.

For the first time ever, we are directly utilizing our businesses profits to grow tribal infrastructure and improve the health of our people. We are at a moment in time when we can make the right kind of choices that will reap benefits for generations of Cherokee citizens. This investment sets a national precedent for a tribal sovereign government making strategic long term investments in systematic health care solutions, all directly funded by profits from our casinos and other businesses.

Our goal is to reduce wait times, improve the lives of elders, ease the burden of those with chronic illness,

make childhood screenings easier, treat those suffering from behavioral health issues and improve the overall health of Cherokee citizens. There is no greater resource for the Cherokee Nation than our people, and investing in our health is investing in our future.

We created economic opportunities through CNB to make the Cherokee Nation stronger. Financially, we have succeeded and we are experiencing robust growth across all CNB platforms – hospitality and entertainment, security and defense, information technology, construction, real estate, health care services and telecommunications. We have laid a strong foundation for long-term financial stability. Aside from annual dividends, this is the first major investment the tribe’s businesses have made directly to tribal infrastructure.

As a business philosophy, we seek smart investment opportunities that pay back profitable dividends. That is what we are doing now with this investment in health care. The Cherokee Nation is the largest sovereign tribal government in the United States and operates the largest tribal health system, with more than one million patient visits annually.

CNB’s construction division will serve as the project’s prime contractor and construction manager. By managing this project in-house, our construction

division grows its capabilities and gains an invaluable experience that can be used to help secure future projects from the federal government and private developers. Growing the economy, creating jobs and improving health care access, it is an all-around winning model for the Cherokee Nation.

With the expanded facilities and additional services, we will have a historic opportunity to dramatically improve the well-being of all Oklahomans living in the 14 county jurisdictional boundaries of the Cherokee Nation – Cherokee citizens or not. When we improve and upgrade Cherokee Nation health centers, it helps alleviate the burden on other health care providers. That benefits the entire state of Oklahoma. In addition, we can provide a greater focus on prevention and awareness, helping to save lives with critical wellness education. Investments in prevention will make our health care system more efficient and will have a lasting effect.

As an elected tribal leader my stewardship is built on my commitment to the Cherokee people. We have created a responsible plan that gives greater control to citizens and allows them to better address their individual needs. A strong nation is a healthy nation, a nation with access to quality health care.

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com (preferred) or mailed to PO Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification. Please keep your letter under 300 words and maintain a civil tone. Letters will be published as space is available.



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EVENTS

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*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci.Phillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyac@ihccr.org

APRIL 17-21
The Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, a traveling three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be on display at the Sequoyah High School Football Field, 17091 S. Muskogee Avenue in Tahlequah

APRIL 20
40th Anniversary of Wounded Knee and American Indian Movement Dance honoring Carter Camp, at White Eagle, Okla. Gourd Dancing starts at 2pm and 6:30 pm. War Dancing at 7pm.

Tulsa Indian Health Care Resource Center contest powwow, 2pm, west side YMCA

5400 S. Olympia, Tulsa. Contests in adult, jr and golden age. All are welcome. Call Tim Shadlow for info: 918-382-2217

Arrowhead Powwow at McAlester Expo, 270 West of town. Gourd Dancing begins at 3pm, Grand Entry at 6:30pm. Honor Dance for Choctaw Nation Councilman Bob Pate. Info call Dena Cantrell, 918-423-0368.

Fife Indian United Methodist ANNUAL AZALEA POWWOW
Civic Center Arena, Muskogee. Gourd dancing starts at 2pm. Info call Amy Lynn 918-684-6363 or Carrie Moses 918-687-1660

APRIL 26
Veteran enrollment and information sharing event, 10am-2pm at Ponca Tribal Affairs Building, White Eagle, Okla. (Hwy 177). Bring a copy of your DD Form 214. More info call Jo Ann, 580-765-2501, ext. 2232

APRIL 26-27
Red Fern Festival, downtown Tahlequah, Okla. www.redfernfestival.com

APRIL 27
Kiowa Princess Election Powwow at Red Buffalo Hall in Carnegie. Info call 580-699-4450.

MAY 4
Benefit spaghetti dinner for Courtney (Bird) Arnold - diagnosed with Stage 3 cervical cancer, undergoing daily treatments. Funds to help with

travel and living expenses. Kansas School Cafeteria, 4:30 p.m., live auction at 6pm. Dinner, Dessert & Drink \$6. Info or to donate, call Boo Cochran 918-316-3941 or Jennifer Barnes, 918-458-7575

MAY 7-8
Mother Earth's People Inter-tribal Council Powwow at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, 18000 Yates Road, Victorville, CA. For more info, contact Moreena Rocha Chavez at 1-760-245-2398 or at e-mail moreenac@yahoo.com.

MAY 11
GrayHorse War Mothers Soldier Dance. Contact: Mary Elsberry mcelsberry@hotmail.com
Flag Raising at 1:30 War Dances at 7:30

MAY 18
2011-2012 Osage Princess, Dora Josephine Williams, Honor Dance, sponsored by the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, at the Pawhuska Fairgrounds Building, Pawhuska, OK. Info call 918-885-2976.

The Chokka Kilimpi department within the Youth and Family Division of The Chickasaw Nation is sponsoring a 5K Run, participants wanted. For more information, contact Sallie Wallace at (580) 221-3775.

MAY 31
Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at

First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 8
Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 21
Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribes.com
Website: www.peoriatribes.com

JUNE 28-30
Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com
Website: www.tonkawatribe.com

JUNE 29, 2013
Morrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pupiakitah (918)682-2586 murowhomedirector@gmail.com

JULY 4
Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

Artist seeks donations for youth art nonprofit

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – Muscogee/Seminole/Cherokee artist Dana Tiger is inviting people to join a special online event and art sale to benefit the artist's nonprofit organization.

Tiger and her talented husband, Donnie, started a nonprofit called the Legacy Cultural Learning Community in 2002.

Its mission is to use the arts to teach Native youth about their culture, heritage and history. For more than



Dana Tiger

a decade, Legacy Cultural Learning Community's programs have brought tribal elders and youth together, taught tribal traditions and languages, introduced art forms and education to countless Native youth throughout Oklahoma and helped

increase communication, understanding and respect among people from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Dana said she and her husband, as well as everyone at Legacy Cultural Learning Community, are determined to make 2013 their best year yet, with a little help. "I'm writing to ask you to please consider making a donation to the Legacy Cultural Learning Community today," Dana

Sponsor or take advantage of our special art sale."

Dana said the sale runs until May 3 and that she has decided to offer signed and numbered, limited edition prints of "They Ride Colorful Horses" & "Dancin Horses," which are two of her newest paintings, at 50 percent off of their current retail value with all proceeds going to Legacy Cultural Learning Community.

Dana said general edition prints are also available. "Please see the 'Art-For-Good' page at the Legacy website for pictures and more information," she said. "Any donation you make will help. We've already seen Legacy programs nurture numerous award-winning young artists, provide much-needed educational opportunities for participants and galvanize community involvement. Please help us keep it going.

For more information, visit www.LegacyCLC.org or www.TigerArtGallery.com or call Keyana "Shea" Simone at (619) 727-8727 or email sanettiwolf@gmail.com.

To donate by mail, please send a check to: Legacy Cultural Learning Community, c/o Tiger Art Gallery, 2110 E. Shawnee, Muskogee, OK 74403.



COURTESY ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Tim Tingle regales Rocky Mountain School elementary students with traditional Choctaw stories recently in Stillwell, Okla. More than 90 percent of RMS students are Native American.

Stillwell students enjoy Choctaw author's visit

MARGARET CARLILE
Reader Submission

STILLWELL, Okla. – Rocky Mountain students and staff recently enjoyed a great day of storytelling with award-winning Choctaw author and story teller Tim Tingle.

Tingle who was also speaking at Northeastern State University's Family Literacy Night spent the day casting his spell over the audience as he told traditional Choctaw stories.

Tingle whose book, "Crossing Bok Chitto,"

won the American Indian Youth Literature Award and was an Editor's Choice in the New York Times Book Review, captivated his audience with tales handed down from family and tribal members. Each group of students heard an age appropriate story and interacted with Tingle as he spoke with them about the lessons in the story. Some lucky students and staff and the school library also received autographed copies of some of Tingle's books. Also participating in the event were Dr. Les Hannah and Dr. Tobi Thompson from Northeastern State University.

Vision Maker Media looking to acquire, distribute Native films for public TV

JESSICA KINZER
Vision Maker Media News Release

LINCOLN, Neb. – Vision Maker Media seeks provocative and engaging completed programs from independent or public television producers. We encourage works that address new and current issues reflecting the changing

nature of Native American communities.

"We're particularly interested in programs that support specific areas of interest to PBS and CPB, such as the American Graduate initiative, Women & Girls Lead, and Veterans' Issues," commented Vision Maker Media's Executive Director, Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux).

Programs may be submitted throughout the year, but will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Vision Maker Media partners with filmmakers who are making films that align with our standards of high-quality content for broadcast or distribution that is not only accurate and authentic, but unique.

Genres of the completed

films submitted for consideration may include documentary, performance, cultural/public affairs, and animation. All programs submitted to this solicitation must be intended for a national public television broadcast.

Acquisition fees will depend on the length of the film, as well as the required specifications to

bring the project to Public Broadcasting.

For more information regarding eligibility and application procedures, please visit Vision Maker Media online at www.visionmakermedia.org/finished_program_acquisitions. For questions pertaining to the acquisition submission process, contact Assistant Director Georgiana

Lee (Navajo) at georgiana.lee@unl.edu.

To find out more about Vision Maker Media, follow us online at <http://about.me/visionmakermedia>.

– Vision Maker Media shares Native stories with the world that represent the cultures, experiences, and values of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sequoyah High announces valedictorian, salutatorian



COURTESY CHEROKEE NATION COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Rikki Duvall, left, is the salutatorian, and Taylor Selky, right, is the Sequoyah High School 2013 valedictorian.

JULIE HUBBARD
Cherokee Nation Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Two Sequoyah High School teens not only juggled traditional high school, but also took concurrent college courses, worked part time, were involved in school clubs and still managed to pull off a 4.29 and 4.23 GPA.

Sequoyah High School's valedictorian Taylor Nicole Selky, of Locust Grove, and salutatorian Rikki Leann Duvall, of Stilwell, say being determined and setting goals made all the difference.

Selky, 17, will graduate

from Sequoyah on May 17, with half of her freshman year completed from Northeastern State University. Duvall also graduates with 12 college hours under her belt.

"My parents have always pushed me in my academics and told me 'this is your job right now,'" Selky said. "They knew I was capable, so they expected A's out of me. Sequoyah provided the tools, like our Mac notebooks, and really tried to push adapting us to what college is going to be like."

Selky will attend Oklahoma State University this fall. She is considering business administration, health care administration

oreducationadministration majors.

"I know that I want to be in charge somehow," Selky said. "I'm a little bit of a control freak, and I like things done in order. I've just always wanted to organize things, and I've always been a natural leader."

Duvall, 18, has been at Sequoyah since her freshman year. Her biggest challenge was managing school while waiting tables part time in order to make her car payment and pay her cell phone bill.

"Grade wise, it started to affect me when I had to get a job last year," she said. "I had to start staying up later to do homework, so I had to get in the routine of coming to school, going to work, staying up late doing homework and getting up early to redo it all. I was tired every day, but I made it happen."

Duvall will either attend the University of Tulsa or OSU and plans to major in nursing or athletic training.

Sequoyah Schools' graduation ceremony for its 77 seniors starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 17, at The Place Where They Play.



40th Anniversary Wounded Knee and the American Indian Movement Dance Honoring Carter Camp April 20, 2013 • White Eagle, OK Hosted By His Family and PaThaTa as Special Co-Host Special Guests – Wounded Knee Veterans Dennis Banks, Dwain Camp, Craig Camp, Viola Hatch and Richard Ray Whitman

Head Staff

Head Singer – Steven Littlecook - Ponca
Head Man Dancer – Damon Roughface, Ponca
Head Lady Dancer – Karen Haymond - Pawnee
Master of Ceremonies – Don Patterson – Tonkawa
Host Gourd – Ponca Gourd Dance Society
Water carriers – Branden Horinek and Louis Faw Faw

Program

2:00 – Gourd Dance
5:30 – Supper Break
6:30 – Gourd Dance
7:00 – War Dance

**A special invitation is extended to the
Tonkawa Gourd Dance Society and the Ponca Hethuska**
Please bring your own dishes and chairs

One-time Schimmel coach recalls her at 11

CHRIS RIZER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON, Ore. (AP) – John Barkley may be the only coach to start a game with Shoni Schimmel sitting on the bench.

Schimmel, now a University of Louisville junior, was just 11 years old when Barkley coached her in the Basketball Against Alcohol and Drugs Tournament on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Mission.

It wasn't long before he realized her talent and took her off the bench.

"You knew she was very special because she played a very special style of basketball," Barkley said. "She played more like a boy than she did a girl."

Barkley said she and her sister Jude – a sophomore guard for the Cardinals – adopted that style after playing against their older brother, Shae Schimmel.

Their style and the support of their parents propelled the sisters to lead the Cardinals to New Orleans and a game against the University of Connecticut for the NCAA women's national basketball title.

The sisters played for Hermiston High School and lived in Mission until their parents, Ceci Moses and Rick Schimmel, moved them to



Shoni Schimmel

Portland. Moses ended up coaching them at Franklin High School.

Barkley is not surprised at the Schimmel sisters' success. Their

energy and playing style has sets them apart.

The pair has drawn attention for their unscripted, instinctive style known as "Rez Ball."

"Rez Ball is probably best defined as a freelance style of play that's fast-paced ... if that means shooting an NBA 3-pointer or taking it to the rack or making a (behind-the-) back pass. It's that freestyle play where there's no reins on you," Barkley said. "It's pretty much get it and go, and create it as you go."

John Barkley's son Josh, a Pilot Rock High School senior who plays point guard for an American Indian team called Nixyaawii Nation, said he learned to make behind-the-back passes by playing with the sisters over the years.

"It's fun because you don't know what's going to happen," he said.

Nixyaawii Nation is comprised of students from Pilot Rock High School, Pendleton High School and Nixyaawii Community School, where Barkley played during his junior year. It competes against other American Indian high school teams from across the West.

Barkley said the Schimmel sisters

have inspired him to make an impact on other American Indian children. He has applied to Mount Hood Community College and Northwest Indian College to study biology and play basketball and hopes one day to be a fisheries technician.

The sisters, now on the national stage, have not forgotten their local roots. In July they brought their teammates to the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center gym, where they used to play as children, to teach a summer basketball program. They spoke about the importance of academics and the hard work it takes to be a strong athlete, said Lloyd Commander, coordinator of the tournament against alcohol and drugs.

It is this same can-do message John Barkley said the sisters have shared with American Indians across the country.

"Your dreams can come true – that there's always a sense of hope and opportunity if you just commit yourself. If you dedicate yourself to doing the right thing, to performing, to putting in the hard work and the hours that's required to be successful," he said.



Raynee Nofire

Local girl scores trophy in hoop shoot contest

Reader Submission

DALLAS – Local student and state champion Raynee Nofire placed third at the 2013 Southwest Regional Hoop Shoot Contest held in Dallas, Texas March 23.

Nofire, sponsored by the Pryor Elks Lodge, placed in the 8-9 year old girls' division by sinking 16 of 25 free throws.

To earn a spot in the regional competition, Nofire won the Pryor lodge contest and then the Northeast District shoot-off. She earned the Oklahoma title at the Oklahoma State Elks Association Championship.

This year, more than 340,000 kids are estimated to have competed in the contest, according to Jud Good, Southwest Regional Director of the Elks Hoop Shoot program. Nationwide, 3 million boys and girls compete in three different age groups.

"It's an honor to be able to give kids like these a platform to excel. The Elks are all about helping the youth of America, and this program gives them a chance to shine," Good said.

Nofire is the 9 year old daughter of Kendall Budder and Eugene Nofire. And is a student at Wickliffe School.

Native games conference set for June 26-28

EAST GLACIER, Mont. – The ancient games of indigenous people throughout the world supported physical and social survival for tens of thousands of years.

"The action and knowledge of those old games is powerful," said DeeAnna Leader, former Director of the International Traditional Games Society. "This first conference, June 26 – 28, is planned for deeper understanding between tribal games experts and modern neuroscientists."

Two North American tribal games experts, Dr. Gregory Cajete

of the University of New Mexico and Oren Lyons of the Onondoga Nation Council of Chiefs will be the main speakers on the values and purposes of indigenous games.

Dr. Jaak Panksepp of Washington State University and Dr. Sergio Pellis of the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, will speak to biological benefits of games.

Craig Falcon, current CEO of the Society, said, "In the past, vigorous physical competitions connected tribal people with spirit, healing, and power. Other competitions called games of 'chance and intuition'

developed social and emotional senses that supported survival. Mankind's future may depend on re-acquiring those traits for adaptation to a highly complicated modern society."

This conference, sponsored by Salish Kootenai College and the Traditional Games Society, will feature indigenous games, horse culture games and the neurobiology of play and joy. Sessions will include presenters from educational programs, museums, parks & recreation and tribal agencies that have used traditional North

American Indian games as tools for teaching health, history and vital social/emotional skills.

The "call for presenters" of indigenous games and information regarding exhibition booths can be found on the conference web site. Registrations will be limited to 500 adults and 200 youth. Web site for conference found at www.traditionalnativegames.org

Questions about the conference can be sent to elk_dog67@yahoo.com or call 406-226-9141.

Native All-Star Football Classic gears up for July

Native Re-Vision Media Release

DALLAS – The third annual Native All-Star Football Classic (NASFC) will be held at 7 p.m., July on the Arlington campus of the University of Texas (UT), Maverick Stadium in Arlington.

This year's event features an exhibition game of Native female lacrosse players that will come in from six Nations in Canada and will be played at 7 p.m., July 5, 2013.

The producer of the event is Native Re-Vision, a 501(c) 3 corporation located in Dallas.

The lacrosse exhibition is an exciting way to showcase the sport of lacrosse in the south. It was born out of Native Re-Vision's desire to give something to Native American girls that was different from basketball or softball.

"We do not know much about the sport of lacrosse here in the states, but it is the fastest growing sport in the U.S.," Steve Cardwell, Cheyenne and Arapaho, chairman and founder of the nonprofit Native Re-Vision said.

Cardwell went on to say lacrosse was derived from the sacred Native American game of stickball, "just as we have the blue and red teams playing in the Football Classic, it will be the Blue Eagles against the Redhawks. You can be sure that the football warriors will be cheering loudly for their own blue and red team 'sisters'."

"We are very happy to be having these events at a Division 1 university," Cardwell said. "We really want to give the kids a feel of a big time Division I school. The kids are very excited to see what it is like to live and interact on a large campus. It is a memory they will not forget and maybe will share with their children one day."

Cardwell stated that Native Re-Vision's mission is to get Native American athletes into a university so they can get a good education.

"We are seeing more and more Native American athletes with really good grades and a focus on the future. This is a good thing to see. It tells us that times are changing for the better," Cardwell

said. "Most people know the stereotype of football players. They are not smart and they are all brawn and no brains. This is not what we are seeing out at our event. It seems our Native athletes are being more pro-active in working on their grades and seem more determined to make something out of their life."

Along with speakers to motivate and inspire the athletes, they are treated to a tour of Cowboys Stadium. They will have a bowling and billiards tournament at this year's camp to get the rivalry started.

"Last year the teams faced off in a canoe race on the Illinois River in Tahlequah, Okla. The Blue Eagles won the race. It made for a lot of fun, as there were kids from tribes who never had been on the water or in a canoe. That was very entertaining to the local kids," Cardwell laughed. "The Redhawks 2 game winning streak was halted by the Blue Eagles and their second year head coach, Cody "Iron Eyes" Wilson, at last year's game. He will face a formidable task this year in a rematch with James "Sandman" Sandusky from Lummi Nation Indian School from Washington. Sandman was coming off of a state championship in 2011 at Lummi and his Red Hawks team was able to put the Blue Eagles away in the second half of that contest and cruised to a dominating win."

Under the production of Native Re-Vision, the game has progressed into a mainstream media event with ESPN Magazine and VYPE Sports Magazine committing to cover this year's event.

"We are also happy to announce a partnership with a new entity into Indian country sports, Kollegstown Sports (KT All Nations). Kollegstown Sports has agreed to partner with Native Re-Vision to support the Native All-Star Football Classic and Native Girls Lacrosse exhibition this year. We are excited to have a large corporate partner who believes in our Native youth programs at Native Re-Vision. We are proud to wear the Adidas brand," Cardwell said. "Their tag line is Adidas all

in. We are so happy to work with a partner who understands the huge impact we are having with getting our Native athletes into a college program, and Adidas is showing they want to be a part of that goal. We have put a large number of kids into Haskell Indian Nations University and plan to put in a whole



COURTESY PHOTO

Trophies await the game MVPs at the end of the day.

lot more. We are also happy to have the game back in Texas and close to Cowboy's stadium. The campus at UT Arlington has built new dorms with shops and restaurants underneath and a new engineering building and basketball arena. We do not have to leave campus to eat out or shop."

Participants and guests will get to see a Texas-sized fireworks show as well. The choice of many venues are available to ensure the athletes, who have worked so hard in the classroom and on the field of play, will get to be rewarded with a memorable experience that will last forever.

Two assistant coaches from last year's game are returning alumni who played in the 2011 game held in Denton. They said the experience was so rewarding that they wanted

to come and coach.

"We are pleased they will be back this year to be a part of this very special event. We have many kids who witnessed this from last year's game and also want to come and volunteer this year. What a refreshing thing to see in our youth. Come and be a part of the event

graduated senior athletes attending a week long camp culminating in the Native All Star Classic football game where the athletes get to showcase their talent, strength, speed and skill. The camp is completely free to the athletes. The volunteer coaches come from all over the nation, former pro football players, high school program coaches, and coaches involved with Indian College programs. Most have heard of the game from the previous coaches or players. The American Indian players are current graduated seniors who have exhibited outstanding achievement in the classroom as well as on the field.

The NASFC operated 'underground' for nine years with the game held at different locations around the country.

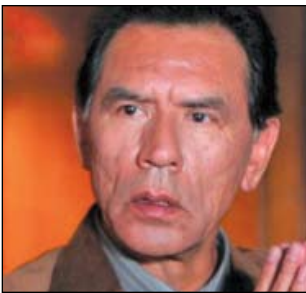
Cardwell, an American Indian business owner attended the game in 2009. In his business travels and contact with American Indians all over the country he found that not many Indians had heard of this game. He said it was an incredible event that brought honor to the game of football as well as to the American Indian. Cardwell decided to help grow the game into the mainstream media so all American Indians could eventually watch the game on television and root for their favorite player who may be from the same tribe they are. He formed a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and began his work to expand interest and awareness of the annual event and to ensure the event continues each year at no cost to the athletes. Attendance at the game has grown from 50 people in 2009 to 320 in 2011, to 450 in 2012 and now an estimated 700 to 800 plus is expected to be in attendance at this year's game.

In 2012 the event was streamed live at www.ihigh.com/nativerevision. As the game evolves exposure is growing by leaps and bounds.

For more information find Native Re-Vision on facebook or visit www.nativerevision.org.

Inside this issue:

- Cherokee highest Native draft pick
- Wes Studi to be in ‘Hall of Greats’
- Depp’s Tonto more than a sidekick



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 16

APRIL 26, 2013

Supreme Court hears ‘Baby Veronica’ case

■ In their appeal to the Supreme Court, the prospective adoptive parents question the definition of a parent and whether a non-custodial parent can invoke ICWA to block the other parent’s attempt to place a child up for adoption.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times



COURTESY INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION
Veronica Brown

Capobianco challenged the definitions and intent behind the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Passed in 1978 in response to the high percentage of Native American children taken from their families and placed up for adoption, ICWA allows tribes to intervene when a child who is either an enrolled tribal citizen or eligible for citizenship through at least one biological parent is placed up for adoption.

The argument stems from the Capobianco’s attempted adoption of “Baby Veronica,” a now three-year-old Cherokee girl. The South Carolina residents are not Native American. “You are relegating that adoptive

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a case one attorney claims will “affect any interracial adoption of

children.” Justices listened April 16 as attorneys for Matt and Melanie

See ‘BABY VERONICA’ on Page 3

Ariz. State Senate bill would provide tax revenue to tribes

CRISTINA SILVA
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) – A last-minute effort to return sales tax revenue to Native American communities in Arizona has won support from Republican and Democratic lawmakers but still faces an uphill battle in the GOP-led Legislature.

American Indian reservations last year generated \$39.5 million in sales tax revenue, money that funds the state and local governments but not tribal operations. The state collects money from 21 tribes. Senate Bill 1283 would return 25 percent of those dollars to tribes each month.

The money would be spent on infrastructure and community development, including road and building construction. The other 75 percent would go to counties that are home to reservations. If the measure became law, it likely would mean fewer tax dollars for the state’s general fund, a

controversial proposal that could doom the legislation. The effort represents a rare collaboration between Republican and Democratic lawmakers. Republican Sen. Chester Crandell is championing the issue along with Democratic Rep. Albert Hale, a former

See BILL on Page 5

Otoe-Missouria runner tells of marathon bombing aftermath

HEATHER PAYNE
Otoe-Missouria Tribe

BOSTON – Otoe-Missouria tribal citizen Marne Smiley learned that her special day had taken a tragic turn just a few hours after finishing her first Boston Marathon. “I was in the shower when it happened so I didn’t hear anything,” Smiley says. “We saw the news reports. There are 87 people in our running group and some of them barely missed the explosion



COURTESY
Marne Smiley

by like 30 seconds. No one was injured, but it was still pretty emotional.”

Smiley is a professional cyclist by trade and a runner by choice. For the last 12 weeks she had been training for the Boston Marathon with a running group out of Chicago called Fleet Feet. At the time of the explosions she was in a VIP room with her running group at the Marriot Copley on Copley Square about a half a mile from the finish line. “After the explosion, they just shut everything down,” Smiley says. “People weren’t allowed out on

the streets. For hours, for hours they wouldn’t let us out of the hotel. They shut down the trains and streets. They were staging all of the emergency vehicles in front of our hotel.” Smiley spent about five hours locked down in the hotel. She says that other hotels were evacuated as the fear of other bomb threats rose. According to the Associated Press, the FAA created a no-fly

See OTOE on Page 4



FILE PHOTO
Jim Thorpe was born in Oklahoma and became a professional football and baseball player, as well as a Hollywood actor. The town that bears his name – which he likely never visited – has become a popular tourist destination

Judge sides with sons about Jim Thorpe’s remains

MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) – The two surviving children of sports great Jim Thorpe won a critical ruling April 19 in federal court that could clear the way for his remains to be removed from a mausoleum in the Pennsylvania town that bears his name and reinterred on American Indian land in Oklahoma. U.S. District Judge Richard Caputo ruled in favor of sons Bill and Richard Thorpe and against Jim Thorpe borough in northeastern Pennsylvania, saying the

town itself amounts to a museum under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The men’s lawyer, Stephen R. Ward of Tulsa, Okla., said they will now pursue the legal process to have their father, who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics, returned to Sac and Fox land in central Oklahoma. Messages seeking comment from lawyers for the borough, and top borough officials, were not

See THORPE on Page 4

3 offers for Wounded Knee land

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – A landowner trying to sell a portion of the Wounded Knee National Historic landmark in South Dakota said Monday he has three offers from West Coast-based investment groups for the land that sits adjacent to where about 150 of the 300 Lakota men, women and children killed by the 7th Cavalry in 1890 are buried. But James Czywczynski told The Associated Press

that he is giving the Oglala Sioux Tribe until May 1 to make an offer on the 40-acre parcel before he opens it up to outside buyers. Czywczynski would not give details on the groups, nor what they intend to do with the land, but said they are willing to pay the full \$3.9 million asking price. “I cannot do anything until May 1 because I have allowed the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Wounded Knee Survivors Association the opportunity to purchase this property

first because that is what I and my family would like to see it in their hands. Otherwise we’re going to advertise it nationally and internationally and get the best price we can,” said Czywczynski, whose family has owned the land since 1968. The Wounded Knee National Historic landmark comprises 870 acres. Along with its proximity to the burial grounds, the land includes the site

See LAND on Page 4



FILE
This Feb. 7, 2012, photo shows a cross on a grave at the Wounded Knee National Historic landmark in South Dakota. James Czywczynski, 74, is trying to sell a 40-acre fraction of the landmark for \$3.9 million to the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Tribe holds hearings about foster care



KRISTINA BARKER | RAPID CITY JOURNAL
Madonna Pappan, top, hugs her 4-year-old daughter Charlie Pappan before speaking at a press conference at the Adobe Eco Hotel in Rapid City, S.D. on Thursday, March 21, 2013. Pappan is one of three mothers represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in a class action suit filled by the ACLU on behalf of the Rosebud Sioux and Oglala Sioux tribes.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is hosting a second hearing about Native Americans in the foster care system ahead of a planned summit next month.

The tribe hosted a pre-summit hearing last week and has scheduled another one for April 26 at Prairie Nights Casino in Fort Yates, N.D.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is holding a summit in May in Rapid City to address concerns raised by tribal members.

At the hearings, relatives of children in the foster care system will be able to share their experiences.

South Dakota tribal officials have alleged that the state is violating the federal law by removing too many American Indian children from their homes and putting them in foster care with non-Indian families.

‘Baby Veronica’ inspires petition to change ICWA

■ Ken Navarro, who signed and helped deliver the petition, said that as now interpreted, the act puts the interests of the tribe ahead of what’s best for the child.

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – After 18 happy months in his Owasso home, Ross Harp’s foster son was taken away for just one reason, Harp said.

“We’re white, and the baby wasn’t,” he said. “How is that not racist?”

Hoping to change the Indian Child Welfare Act, Harp and several other advocates delivered a petition on April 17 to U.S. Rep. Jim Bridenstine’s office in Tulsa.

Passed in 1978, the federal law gives a tribe the right to intervene when an Indian child is placed in the custody of a non-Indian family.

“If there was an African-American Child Welfare Act,” Harp said, “or an Asian Child Welfare Act, everybody would be making a fuss. But because it’s happening to Indian children, nobody cares.”

With 23,000 names from across the country, including more than 1,000 from Oklahoma, the petition was inspired by the Baby Veronica case, which was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court a day earlier.

Veronica spent the first two years of her life in South Carolina with a non-Native American couple who was trying to adopt her.

But the Cherokee Nation intervened on behalf of her biological father, Dusten Brown, who’s a tribal citizen.

Now 3, the girl lives with Brown in Nowata. But her

adoptive parents in South Carolina still hope to win her back.

“It’s not just Baby Veronica,” Dawn Ferrill, a foster parent who circulated the petition in Oklahoma, said. “It’s happening over and over again.”

The Supreme Court will decide Veronica’s case this summer. But either way, Ferrill hopes to see Congress change the ICWA.

First, the “best interests of the child” should be considered before deciding custody, she said. And a birth mother or father should be allowed to choose an adoptive family regardless of their descent, she said.

Cherokee Nation officials consider both proposed changes unnecessary.

The law already takes into consideration the “best interests” of the child and even the wishes of the birth parents, said Chrissi Nimmo, a CN assistant attorney general.

But the law also protects tribal sovereignty, giving the CN jurisdiction over its own children, she said.

Custody battles erupt when judges, adoption agencies and attorneys don’t follow the guidelines, Nimmo said.

“The way to avoid this situation,” she said, “is to fully comply” the ICWA “from the beginning of the case.”

But Ken Navarro, who signed and helped deliver the petition, said that as now interpreted, the act puts the interests of the tribe ahead of what’s best for the child.

Navarro ultimately won the right to adopt a 2-year-old boy but only after he briefly lost custody and fought a lengthy court battle with the CN, he said.

“It’s all very traumatic, especially for the child,” he said. “And for what?”

Social worker pleads guilty in Cherokee child’s death

■ An Associated Press investigation found that police and social workers were aware of reports that the child was mistreated while she was staying with the woman who later pleaded guilty and was sentenced in the girl’s death.

MITCH WEISS
Associated Press

BRYSON CITY, N.C. (AP) – A county social service worker in North Carolina admitted April 15 to ordering that records be faked during the probe of a child’s death, and she’s agreed to cooperate with authorities who are continuing to investigate her co-workers.

Candice Lassiter, 30, pleaded guilty to three counts of forgery related to the police investigation of 15-month-old Aubrey Kina-Marie Littlejohn’s death in 2011.

In return, prosecutors dropped three counts of obstruction of justice against the former Swain County social worker who will be sentenced in August. She faces up to 45 months in prison.

Her attorney Zeyland McKinney declined to comment, saying his client wasn’t interested in talking about the case.

But Aubrey’s mother, Jasmine Littlejohn, said the case was far from over.

“She didn’t do this by herself,” she said.

A trial for another Swain County social worker, Craig Smith, was postponed until August. He has been charged with three counts of obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors say that after Aubrey’s death, Lassiter ordered Smith, a subordinate, to falsify records to make it appear that the Swain County Department of Social Services had done a thorough job investigating allegations that the girl had been abused.

Aubrey’s death sparked anger in the Native American community. She died after she was rushed to the hospital by great-aunt Ladybird Powell, who began taking care of Aubrey in 2010, shortly before the toddler’s mother reported to jail in a marijuana-trafficking case.

Powell told doctors she had put the girl to bed and, when she checked on her a few hours later, she wasn’t breathing. A state medical examiner said Aubrey died of undetermined causes, but noted bruises and broken bones.

Some in the tribe say the Swain County Department

of Social Services didn’t do enough to protect her. Led by Aubrey’s great-aunt Ruth McCoy, family members and friends pushed police to investigate.

An Associated Press investigation found that police and social workers were aware of reports that Aubrey was mistreated while she was staying with the woman.

Powell, 39, of Bryson City has since pleaded guilty in the child’s death and was sentenced two months ago to 12 years in prison.

Lassiter and three other DSS workers were suspended with pay. Tammy Cagle, the agency’s director at the time, was fired for what county officials said were unrelated reasons

During the hearing, Lassiter sat quietly by her attorney while Prosecutor Sybil Mann disclosed details of the cover up.

As part of the deal, which was approved by Aubrey’s family, Lassiter has agreed to cooperate with investigators looking into the death.

“This is just the tip of it,” said McCoy, who works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. “It’s just not one or two people. We know there were more involved in the cover up.”

McCoy said Lassiter was one of the social workers whom police escorted to Powell’s home one night in November 2010 to investigate a complaint

that an 11-year-old boy was living in a trailer with drugs and no heat.

They removed the boy, placing him in McCoy’s custody, but let Aubrey stay. The heat was off because the power bill wasn’t paid.

David Wijewickrama, a lawyer representing Aubrey’s estate, said getting to the truth is important to the family.

He has filed two lawsuits in connection with her death, at least one of which names the county DSS as a defendant, along with Lassiter, Smith and five other current and former social workers. The lawsuit asks for more than \$10,000 in damages, and accuses Swain County of not doing enough to protect Native American children.

“From this day forward, the family feels that those who were involved need to go to jail, face professional charges, and be removed from any state agency for the rest of their professional careers,” Wijewickrama said.

“If there was a conspiracy to destroy documents, hide the truth, and in some way profit from deliberate acts, those actions must be disclosed, reviewed and made public. At which point, the family prays, the state will take swift and meaningful corrective measures and enact transparent policy changes,” he said.



COURTESY PHOTO
Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown works on a puzzle with daughter Veronica.

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Eastern Band Cherokees plan to create their own DSS agency

MITCH WEISS
Associated Press

BRYSON CITY, N.C. (AP) – Angry over the way Swain County social services workers handled a child abuse case in which a 15-month old girl died, a Native American tribe is planning to form its own agency to protect children on a North Carolina reservation.

A special committee of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will appoint a board for the proposed social services agency, Ruth McCoy, a committee member, told The Associated Press. Once the board is appointed, it will hire a director, she said.

Other details will have to be worked out, including funding and hiring social services workers, but McCoy said appointing a board is a critical first step.

“We’re doing this to protect our children,” said McCoy, who works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. “The goal is to have it going in the next year. After everything that’s happened, this is something the chief has been working on, and we want to do.”

McCoy is the great-aunt of Aubrey Kina-Marie Littlejohn, whose 2011 death sparked outrage in the Native American community. McCoy and tribal leaders say the Swain County Department of Social Services didn’t do enough to protect Aubrey. The girl was a member of the tribe whose sprawling reservation lies in parts of four counties in the picturesque

Smoky Mountains in the western part of the state.

A Swain County social services worker recently pleaded guilty to ordering that records be faked during the probe of Aubrey’s death and has agreed to cooperate with authorities who are continuing to investigate her co-workers. Another Swain County social services worker has been charged in connection with the cover-up.

Tribal sovereignty gives federally recognized tribes the authority to govern themselves. The Eastern Band of Cherokees has a tribal council with a chief that sets policy on the reservation, a tribal court system, and public safety and other departments.

It’s not unusual for tribes to provide social services, said Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association in Portland, Ore.

About 40 to 50 percent of the tribes in the lower 48 states handle their own child protection cases, he said. And every tribe has some form of child welfare program, he added. It could be something as simple as monitoring state or county programs.

“Frequently the decision whether or not to do your own child protection cases is mostly a resource issue,” Cross said. “The tribes that feel like they have the resources to do it – and the philosophical underpinnings, they want to protect their own and express their sovereignty – have those child protection systems.

Where tribes don’t feel like they have adequate resources and have to prioritize, they don’t have them.”

With the Eastern Band of Cherokees, “it may be more unusual for a tribe of their size and capacity to have not done it sooner,” he said.

For years, agencies in Swain, Jackson, Graham and Cherokee counties have had a contract to provide social services to the reservation. That includes investigating child abuse complaints.

Swain and Jackson counties handle the bulk of child abuse complaints on the reservation. About 26 percent of Swain County’s nearly 14,000 residents are Native American, according to U.S. census figures. In neighboring Jackson County, nearly 10 percent of the more than 40,000 residents are Native American.

Officials in Swain and Jackson counties say tribal leaders have shared few details with them about the proposed agency – but they say they know enough to predict layoffs for their departments.

Swain County Administrator Kevin King said 58 percent of the county’s 626 substantiated child abuse complaints last year involved families on the reservation.

He said Swain County has four full-time employees devoted to handling reservation cases. “They would lose their jobs,” he said.

Others could find themselves unemployed, too, if the tribe takes over other social services, such as the food stamps program, which is

administered by the county agency. King estimated that 12 of the county’s 45 DSS workers could be at risk.

“At this point, we don’t know the exact ramifications of a total move of DSS,” he said.

But King said he’s supportive of the tribe’s move.

So is Jackson County DSS director Robert Cochran, though he said he’s concerned about staffing complications. He said he also expects his agency to continue to play a role in helping the Native American community.

“This is not going to be a stand-alone island agency. They’re going to continue to have very much daily interactions and reliance upon Swain and Jackson counties,” he said.

McCoy said there will be a period of adjustment, but tribal leaders believed this was the right move in the wake of Aubrey’s death.

The toddler died after she was rushed to the hospital by great-aunt Ladybird Powell, who began taking care of Aubrey in 2010, shortly before the toddler’s mother reported to jail in a marijuana-trafficking case.

A state medical examiner said Aubrey died of undetermined causes but noted bruises and broken bones.

Powell, 39, of Bryson City has since pleaded guilty in the child’s death and was sentenced two months ago to 12 years in prison.

An Associated Press investigation found that police and social workers were aware of reports that Aubrey was mistreated while she was staying with Powell.

‘BABY VERONICA’

Continued from Page 1

parents go to the back of the bus and wait in line if they can adopt,” Capobianco attorney Lisa Blatt said. “And you’re basically relegating the child to a piece of property with a sign that says ‘Indian, keep off. Do not disturb.’”

Blatt went on to conclude the case outcome will have an impact on any interracial adoption.

Under ICWA, adoption placement preference is given to extended family members, members of the child’s tribe and Native American families from other tribes. The act also requires parents be thoroughly appraised of their custodial rights and only allow them to forfeit those rights before a judge.

Dusten Brown, Veronica’s biological father, is a Cherokee Nation citizen from Nowata, Okla. He was awarded custody of his daughter after a South Carolina family court denied the Capobiancos’ petition due to the terms of the ICWA. The couple appealed the decision to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, South Carolina Supreme Court and then the U.S. Supreme Court.

Shannon Jones, an attorney representing Brown in the case, said she has no doubt in her mind that

Veronica is where she belongs.

“She is her daddy’s little girl,” Jones said April 15 during a conference call with reporters. “Her father is the one she goes to first. She is very bonded with him and has everything a little girl could want – grandparents living three miles down the road, a farm, pets.

“Since her father has taken custody, she’s learned about her Cherokee heritage and I can see how important that is to her. She’s very happy and extremely loved by her extended family.”

In their appeal to the Supreme Court, the prospective adoptive parents question the definition of a parent and whether a non-custodial parent can invoke ICWA to block the other parent’s attempt to place a child up for adoption. Under South Carolina law, Brown forfeited his parental rights when he did not provide financial support for the biological mother for the duration of her pregnancy or take steps to establish his paternity immediately after the child’s birth.

Brown’s attorneys maintain that he did not know when the child was born until he was served with adoption papers four months after her birth.

During oral arguments last week, Blatt argued that Brown and his family had no binding legal ties to the girl once Brown agreed to surrender custody to Veronica’s mother, Christy Maldonado.

“There is no familial legal custodial parental relationship that either this father or his parents – or his extended family – had with this child,” Blatt said. “This adoption no more broke up an Indian family than (if) this Hispanic sole custodial mother had raised the child herself.”

While questioning Brown’s attorney Charles Rothfeld, Chief Justice John Roberts asked whether a minimum blood quantum exists to determine whether a child is sufficiently Indian to qualify for the protections afforded under ICWA.

“...is there at all a threshold before you can call, under the statute, a child an ‘Indian child?’” Roberts asked. “3/256ths?”

Dawn Ferrill, a Tulsa foster mother who circulated a petition to make changes to ICWA, described Veronica as mostly Hispanic and “barely 1 percent Cherokee,” according to a Tulsa World article published April 16.

The Cherokee Nation does not have a minimum blood quantum requirement but does require proof of direct lineal descent from at least one person on the Dawes Rolls, which are lists of Cherokee Nation

citizens compiled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Chrissi Nimmo, Cherokee Nation assistant attorney general, was in Washington to hear the oral arguments. She told the Tulsa World it wasn’t a matter of percentages.

“Just as someone can’t be 1 percent United States citizen,” she said, “one can’t be 1 percent Cherokee citizen.”

Despite having attorneys present and intervening at the trial level to help Brown regain custody, the Cherokee Nation was not allowed to participate in last week’s hearing.

A ruling is expected before the court recesses in June.

Along with the Supreme Court challenge to the law, a group has submitted a petition with more than 23,000 signatures requesting Congress to amend ICWA to allow a child’s biological parents to choose their child’s adoptive parents, regardless of tribal affiliation. The group is also asking that the law take the child’s best interests into account, something ICWA’s supporters maintain is already done when the law is followed to the letter.

“The law was created to protect the best interest of children with our unique cultural needs in mind,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said. “ICWA provides additional protection for our children.”



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Criminal charges filed against ex-Navajo lawmaker

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A former Navajo Nation lawmaker has been charged with receiving kickbacks, submitting false information and conspiring with a colleague to funnel nearly \$100,000 to members of his immediate family while he served on the Tribal Council.

Prosecutors from the Rothstein Law Firm announced the filing of 24 charges against Ernest Yazzie Jr. on Tuesday. The charges represent the first criminal case brought by the law firm that took over an investigation of the Tribal Council’s use of discretionary funds in 2011, but it won’t be the only case.

Prosecutors have said they intend to file charges against other current or former Navajo lawmakers. They say their investigation has revealed two common abuses – that lawmakers gave money to their own families or the families of other lawmakers.

Criminal complaints filed in Window Rock District Court allege nearly one-third of the discretionary funds allocated to Yazzie between 2006 and 2009 went to his wife and three children. Yazzie served two terms on the Navajo Nation Council starting in 2003, representing the communities of Churchrock and Breadsprings in New Mexico. He lost

a bid for re-election in 2010, after voters reduced the Tribal Council from nearly 90 members to 24.

At the time, another prosecutor had brought criminal cases against a majority of the 88 lawmakers, alleging massive fraud in the use of discretionary funding intended for Navajos on fixed incomes, college students, organizations in need or Navajos seeking money for emergencies. The prosecutor, Alan Balaran, eventually settled or dismissed those charges but filed a civil case that included many of the same defendants.

Balaran’s contract wasn’t renewed. The Rothstein Law Firm took over the investigation and is evaluating the civil complaint. Of the 85 defendants named in it, 75 remain.

Yazzie is representing himself in the criminal case filed this week. A call to a number listed for him in Sanders didn’t go through.

In a 2010 interview with The Associated Press, Yazzie said he believed the complaints filed by Balaran were politically motivated and meant to keep certain lawmakers out of office. He defended the use of discretionary spending, saying: “It’s our own people doing for their own people. What’s wrong? At least us, we help the people.”

The criminal complaints against Yazzie outline an alleged scheme in which Yazzie would provide money

to the family of Navajo Nation Council Delegate David Tom, and Tom would send money back to Yazzie’s family. Among the charges Yazzie faces is lying to prosecutors by saying he had no idea how his family received funding from Tom.

“The exchanges of financial assistance requests between defendant Yazzie and council Delegate David Tom at about the same time and for the same or similar amounts of money show the underlying agreement or understanding that these two men had to maintain their conspiracy,” prosecutors wrote in court documents.

Tom, who represents several Navajo communities on the council, has not been charged with a crime. Neither he nor his attorney immediately responded to messages left Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Prosecutors allege Yazzie helped his children, who were minors at the time, submit false applications for discretionary funding. One application filed on behalf of Yazzie’s then-12-year-old daughter was for \$2,500 “to pay for summer classes at Gallup, University of New Mexico branch to study chemistry and further my education,” even though she did not go to UNM, prosecutors said. Another was for \$2,000 for home renovations for

a then-14-year-old child who was “unemployed” and looking for work as a “part-time gas station attendant,” the court documents state.

Among other expenses listed for Yazzie’s children and approved for financial assistance were dental bills, a laptop, clothing, meals, Navajo dresses, utility bills, hospital bills, traditional ceremonies, “everything related to education,” and a stove to keep warm, court documents state.

Yazzie’s son Ernie Yazzie said Tuesday the family likely would comment, but he offered no immediate details. Prosecutors list him among the beneficiaries of the discretionary funding.

Several of the complaints allege the elder Yazzie received kickbacks after securing money for his relatives. In one instance, prosecutors say Yazzie delivered a \$1,500 check to a relative in a trading post parking lot and required the relative to give \$1,400 of it back to him.

Any tribal member who lacked resources to pay their expenses could apply for discretionary spending, but Navajo law prohibits nepotism.

The Navajo Supreme Court has since halted the practice of discretionary spending until rules can be put in place to govern it. About \$32 million in discretionary funding was available to tribal lawmakers over the eight years Yazzie was in office.

OTOE

Continued from Page 1

zone around the area and cell phone service was shut down to prevent any remote detonations. Smiley’s family back in Illinois and extended Otoe-Missouria family in Oklahoma had been tracking her online. She says she couldn’t get a hold of anyone for several hours to tell them she wasn’t injured.

“I had over 200 people trying to check on me,” Smiley says.” The phone lines were down. No one could call in or use their phone or use the internet. It was really frustrating.”

Smiley, who was staying at the home of a college friend in Boston, finally reached her destination at about 8 p.m. once the streets were reopened and the trains started running again. She says the events of the day were starting to sink in.

“I’m feeling pretty emotional and I know that I’m going to have a few tears and an emotional breakdown at some point,” Smiley says. “An eight-year-old kid is one of the ones that died. It sucks. It sucks. It’s supposed to be joyous. We got off the train like one stop early so I could get an ice cream. That’s my celebration. I’m joyful that I could even do it to begin with, but for that to happen is just crummy.”

Smiley was a runner in college and wanted to keep a 2:55 pace, but the notorious hills of the Boston Marathon took its toll on the athlete. Before the explosions, she was disappointed by her 3:07:34 finish. After the explosion, she contemplated running the race again.

“If I do run it again it won’t be based on the fact that there are evil people with evil intentions it will be based on the fact that I just want go out there and have a better race because that’s what it’s about,” Smiley says. “It’s about the race. It’s about the people. It’s about the city. There are bad things that happen all the time and if I set my life around that, I wouldn’t be anywhere.”

THORPE

Continued from Page 1

immediately returned. They could appeal Caputo’s decision.

Ward said the brothers were pleased with the decision.

“They and their brothers and other members of the family have wanted this and have worked for this for a long time,” he said. “They well remember how the wishes of the Indian members of the family were not respected concerning their father’s burial.”

After Jim Thorpe died without a will in 1953 at age 64, third wife Patricia Thorpe made a deal with two merging towns in the Poconos, Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk, to have the new town named for him. His remains have been kept for the past six decades in a borough-owned roadside memorial along the Lehigh River.

Caputo wrote that the result may seem at odds with notions of commercial or contract law.

“Congress, however, recognized

larger and different concerns in such circumstances, namely, the sanctity of the Native American culture’s treatment of the remains of those of Native American ancestry,” the judge said. “It did so against a history of exploitation of Native American artifacts and remains for commercial purposes.”

Ward said Bill Thorpe, who lives in Oklahoma, and Richard, a resident of the Dallas area, have not decided whether to bury their father alongside their paternal grandfather in a cemetery in Shawnee, Okla., or at another spot in the area.

Ward said the brothers are not seeking to have the town change its name, and the judge said any concerns about the borough’s identity were misplaced.

Thorpe was born in Oklahoma and became a professional football and baseball player, as well as a Hollywood actor. The town that bears his name – which he likely never visited – has become a popular tourist destination, replete with trendy shops, historic architecture and outdoor activities connected to the mountainous region.

LAND

Continued from Page 1

of a former trading post burned down during the 1973 Wounded Knee uprising, in which hundreds of American Indian Movement protesters occupied the town built at the site of the 1890 massacre. The 71-day standoff that left two tribal members dead and a federal agent seriously wounded is credited with raising awareness about Native American struggles and giving rise to a wider protest movement that lasted the rest of the decade.

Czywczynski, who also is trying to sell another 40-acre piece of nearby land to the tribe for \$1 million, said he hopes the tribe sees the value

the land could add in terms of jobs and economic development to the impoverished reservation. Some tribal members think the land around the massacre site should be developed into a tourist attraction while others are adamantly opposed to it.

Wounded Knee tribal council member Kevin Yellow Bird Steele said the tribe has money to purchase the land but believes the asking price is too high. The land has been appraised at less than \$7,000.

Paying \$3.9 million for the land would “detrimentally affect the rest of the land base around there,” Yellow bird Steele said. “If they did buy it for that price, then all the other land value would go up and that’s what they don’t want to do right now.”

Navajo lawmakers put off vote on coal plant lease

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – Navajo Nation lawmakers have put off voting on a lease extension for a coal-fired power plant over concerns about water use, pollution, the federal government’s role in the power plant and a negotiating team that didn’t include any of the lawmakers.

The Tribal Council took the action Wednesday after hours of debate in Window Rock, agreeing to reconvene on April 29 after taking their concerns to owners of the Navajo Generating Station, which powers a series of canals that deliver water to Arizona’s most populated areas. The lawmakers had been considering legislation that would extend the lease that expires in 2019 to 2044 and boost payments to the tribe from \$3 million to \$43 million a year.

A handful of amendments to the legislation to control fly ash, ensure that tribal laws are followed and to address water use at the power plant were approved, but the lawmakers weren’t satisfied overall. While they acknowledged the benefit of the power plant to the Navajo economy, they said they couldn’t ignore the pleas of environmental groups to seek a better deal.

“I really believe that by allowing this to go forward, we will shortchange the Navajo Nation and the Navajo people,” Delegate Leonard Tsosie said. “We have many questions.”

Navajo President Ben Shelly and Tribal Council Speaker Johnny Naize, who sponsored the

agreement, urged the lawmakers to approve the lease extension Wednesday. Shelly said that the Salt River Project, which operates the power plant, has told the tribe that there is little, if any, room for further negotiations.

“They consider the major points of the agreement to be exhausted, such as jurisdiction and money,” Shelly wrote in a letter to the Tribal Council. “Because of mitigating circumstances, the water concerns are unlikely to be resolved before the timeframe needed to finalize the lease extension.”

SRP spokesman Scott Harelson said the utility was disappointed that the Navajo Nation Council tabled the legislation. Any changes to the agreement would have to be approved by the owners of the power plant and the tribe.

“The proposed lease extension was the result of more than 2 1/2 years of negotiation between the plant’s owners and a Navajo nation team comprised of representatives of the nation’s government from different areas, including environmental, finance and natural resources,” he said. “Those negotiations addressed the issues raised today at council that were fairly agreed to.”

The Tribal Council saw no need to rush Wednesday. It was the second time the lawmakers had taken up the agreement, after ruling it out of order earlier this year because the negotiating team didn’t include any tribal lawmakers as required by a section of Navajo law. The tribe’s attorney general said in recent memo that Shelly had the authority under a different section of tribal law to assemble the team.

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Lawmakers kill water compact, tribes looking at legal action

■ Opponents fear that compact gives tribes too much control of water and that control will create hardship for non-Indian irrigators in the region.

KATHRYN HAAKE
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – The Montana Legislature’s failure to ratify a water-rights compact has left the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes no choice but to take legal action, a tribal spokesman said.

The Legislature’s inaction on bills that would have given the state’s approval on the compact in the works since 1979 “sends a chilling message” to the tribes, said communications director Rob McDonald.

“I am personally concerned with the future of community,” McDonald said. “It’s bad for business. It’s bad for the sense of community.”

A lawsuit would likely lead to years of litigation and widen the rifts between the Indian and non-Indian residents of the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana.

The compact is the result of at least a decade of negotiations between the tribes and the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. Supporters say the compact would allow current irrigators access to plenty of water, while granting the tribes some off-reservation in-stream flow rights promised to them in the Hellgate Treaty made with the U.S. in 1855.

The Hellgate treaty allowed for tribal access to off-reservation lands that were traditionally used for hunting, gathering and fishing. Other Native American treaties in

Montana do not have such provisions.

Rep. Daniel Soloman, R-Ronan, said he believes the courts are likely to rule in the tribes’ favor – securing all water rights granted to them in the treaty because they may have ancestral rights to more off-reservation bodies of water than what they agreed to in the compact.

“They have done a good job of documenting the traditional and ancestral places where they fished,” Soloman said. “If they go to court, they are going to go for Yellowstone and Musselshell and why wouldn’t they?”

Soloman is a farmer on the Flathead Indian Reservation and was appointed as the Republican House representative to the commission. He is one of several prominent agriculturists on the Flathead Reservation who support the water compact.

He sponsored House Bill 636 and remains adamant that his bill along with another compromise measure, House Bill 629, would have benefited both Indian and non-Indian neighbors on and off the Flathead Indian Reservation, while allowing for future development of western Montana. He said his experience working with the commission and the tribes has been a positive one.

But opponents fear that compact gives tribes too much control of water and that control will create hardship for non-Indian irrigators in the region. Under the compact, the tribes would have access to 90,000 acres of water stored in Hungry Horse Reservoir for their own use or lease. The compact would also establish a Water Management Board that would enforce water rights on Flathead Indian Reservation.

A website called Western Montana Water Rights, run

by the group Concerned Citizens of Lake County and Western Montana, accuses the commission of marginalizing the opposition and rushing through public meetings.

House Republicans killed the measures to make room for Senate Bill 265, sponsored by Sen. Verdell Jackson, R-Kalispell, which would extend negotiations for another two years. Republicans say Jackson’s measure will allow the commission the time necessary to come to a better solution.

“If the compact is a great compact today, it will be a great compact in two years,” Rep. Jerry Bennett, R-Libby, said.

Even though Bennett lives in Libby, a few hours north of the Flathead Indian Reservation, his constituents are wary of a compact that contains off-reservation water rights for the tribes. He says there’s a perception that the compact may curtail potential development by deterring investment. And Libby, with an unemployment rate of 18 percent, greatly needs that investment, he said.

Bennett acknowledged that the tribes negotiated in good faith, but he believes the off-reservation water rights were thrown into the compact too hastily.

“As hurt as the tribes are, so are Montana’s citizens,” Bennett said.

Bennett said he hopes the tribes will allow negotiations to continue for another two years, but McDonald said the time for negotiations has passed as CSKT has spent “thousands of hours of staff time, researching and crafting a very elegant solution to a very complex problem.”

“We did what was asked,” McDonald said. “We didn’t choose this process. We did what we thought had to be done. We hashed out a compact, despite very difficult problems.”

BILL

Continued from Page 1

president of the Navajo Nation, which covers portions of northeastern Arizona.

The measure would bring much-needed cash to reservations grappling with high levels of unemployment and poverty, Hale said.

“Economic development on Indian reservations is nonexistent,” he said. “We need to help. And the bottom line is that Indian people on reservations or off reservations, they are citizens of the state of Arizona, and by that virtue they are entitled to all the same rights as other citizens of Arizona.”

A late amendment to legislation that Crandell had already passed through the Senate and the House could force debate on the tax disparity in the Legislature.

The version of Crandell’s bill passed by both chambers would have created a temporary committee to study the feasibility of carving out a county for tribes that eventually would be able to collect sales tax dollars. The measure passed unanimously in the Senate in February, and was advanced in the House in a 52-6 vote this month.

Hale’s amendment was approved in a conference

committee last week in a 5-1 vote. It had support from Crandell, Hale, Republican Sen. Kelli Ward, Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe and Democratic Sen. Jack Jackson Jr. Republican Rep. Michelle Ugenti voted nay.

The latest version of the bill now mirrors House Bill 2522, a similar effort by Hale that was assigned to three committees in February but was never granted a hearing.

Hale said the proposed overhaul would be dead on arrival without Crandell’s help.

“In prior years it has been that basically we didn’t have any champion on our side,” Hale said. “People see the inequity, but there was no one on our side to push it.”

Crandell said he supports the tax proposal because it would help counties that provide services to tribes. The state distributes sales tax revenue to local governments based on population, tax activity and taxable property. Since reservations are exempt from property taxes, counties with tribal land don’t receive their fair share, Crandell said.

“Counties need some relief because they have the responsibility of taking care of the land mass and the people who live on the reservations who are not paying for that in property taxes,” he said.

Crandell said Senate President Andy Biggs and

House Speaker Andy Tobin agree that the current tax distribution system is inequitable, but it could be difficult to convince the Legislature to reduce the state’s general fund by roughly \$20 million each year to support tribes.

“That’s going to be the deciding factor,” Crandell said.

It’s unclear if local governments will oppose the measure. Lenore Stuart, president of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona, said she would be concerned if the legislation meant less money for county governments.

“Obviously it’s an issue we are always struggling with, especially now that revenues are down,” she said.

Jackson, who has rallied to reform the tax distribution system since 2003, said Republicans have supported similar overhauls in the past. But because of Crandell’s cheerleading, the effort has never been closer to passage, he said.

“It will make a significant difference on tribal lands,” Jackson said. “Better schools, better hospitals, and so on down the list.”

In all, Arizona collected \$7.3 billion in sales tax last year, with nearly half going toward the state general fund, according to the Department of Revenue. Cities received about \$392 million, and counties got \$636 million.

COMMENTARY

Remembering Allen Neuharth, the newsman from South Dakota

NOTES FROM INDIAN COUNTRY

TIM GIAGO
Nanwica Kciji

A man dressed in black and silver approached me at a newspaper convention in San Francisco 30 years ago. He held out his hand and said, “Hi, Tim; I’m Al Neuharth and I also am from South Dakota.”

That was the first time I met the man who would go on to found USA Today. He told me then that, as a consummate newsman, he had been following the progress of the weekly newspaper I had started on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1981 and offered his encouragement. He said, “Sometime, down the road, come and visit me.”

And a few years later after we had formed the Native American Journalists Association in 1984, we were looking for the funds to get it off of the ground and Al came to mind. I contacted him and he pointed me to a man named Gerald Sasse with the Gannett Foundation. Al was then the head of the Gannett Foundation.

Loren Tapahe of the Navajo Times and I went to Rochester, N.Y. and met with Mr. Sasse and with his help we secured the funds given to us in Gannett stock worth \$85,000 to put the organization on firm footing and to stage the very first convention on the Warm Springs Nation in Oregon.

The Gannett Foundation had also been instrumental in funding the very first meeting of aspiring Native American journalists at Penn State, hosted by Journalism Professor, William Dulaney. Prof. Delaney stuck with us

through our formative years and again, through Gannett, secured us the funds to hold our first organizational meeting on the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma in 1984. I spoke to Prof. Dulaney a few weeks ago and he informed me that he only has a few months to live. He has cancer of the brain.

All of the help from the Gannett Foundation would not have happened without Al Neuharth in the background pulling the strings. He was our featured speaker at our second convention held in Scottsdale, AZ. Not only did he speak, he also brought us another substantial check. By that time he had retired from the Gannett Newspaper Group and was now the head of the Freedom Forum, a foundation that replaced the Gannett Foundation.

When Al formed his first Advisory Board for the Freedom Forum he called me and asked me to serve on that board which I gladly did for a few years. It was at the board meetings when I met privately with Al and encouraged him to start a seminar to host young Native Americans to encourage them to pursue careers in journalism. He followed through and started the Journalism Workshop for aspiring Native American high school journalists at Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He followed this up by holding an annual intensive journalism workshop for older Native American journalists at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Al came to Rapid City and visited my newspaper, Lakota Times, in the late 1980s. He asked me what I needed to help the newspaper grow

and I told him I needed funds for a printing press. A few weeks later he sent me a check to purchase my first printing press.

Always an optimist, Al made it a point to send out Happy New Year’s cards to his friends every year and I was fortunate to be on his list. Ironically the card he sent me for Happy New Year 2013 got lost in the mail and I finally received it in April 2103, this month. It was a photo of Al on the beach at his home in Florida surrounded by his entire family. He was dressed in his signature black as always. The card read simply “The Al Neuharth and Rachel Fornes Family.”

I immediately sent him a “Thank you” note and he received it just a few days before his death.

Native newspapermen and women and Native journalists across America lost one of their best friends. Neuharth grew up in the small South Dakota town of Alpena and he never forgot his roots, nor did he ever forget the Native Americans that made up a large portion of the State’s population. We owe him much.

I remember having the opportunity to introduce Al at the NAJA Convention in Scottsdale, AZ. I read from the long list of his life’s accomplishments, a list that went on and on, and then turned the podium over to him. He took the mike and said, “Thanks Tim for the great introduction, but it was kind of short wasn’t it.”

That was Allen Neuharth, a South Dakota boy who made good, but never lost his sense of humor. He will be missed greatly by every Native American journalist in America.

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com (preferred) or mailed to PO Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification. Please keep your letter under 300 words and maintain a civil tone. Letters will be published as space is available.

Cherokee Nation at-large candidate announcement

Stating that “For too long at-large Citizens have had council members more concerned with politics than with working for their families,” former State Representative Ken Luttrell announced he would seek to be the voice for all at-large members of the Cherokee Nation. “I don’t answer to special interest groups or big donors. I will be your voice in the Council fighting for the concerns of at-large Cherokees,”

Luttrell, with 25 years of business management brings firsthand knowledge of economics to the Council. As a legislator, Luttrell served on the National Energy Council, co-chair of the Native American Caucus and on the Executive Board of the National Caucus of Native

American State Legislators.

Representative Luttrell is a Vietnam Era Army Veteran, coaches boxing and mentors at-risk youth in drug and gang prevention programs. He serves on the Boards of the Salvation Army, The Boys and Girls Club of America and the American Red Cross.

Descended from Trail of Tears survivor Tonnette (Do-de-yunt) Ketcher and Charlotte (Soh-lat-ta) Ratler, Luttrell’s Great Grandmother was Nancy Ketcher Hanna, Grandmother Ona Hanna Caudill and Mother Jewell Caudill Luttrell of the Grove, Oklahoma area. His family still has the original home place and log cabin where his Grandmother was born south of Honey Creek.

“I will be a strong and independent voice for your



Ken Luttrell

family, always remembering who I represent, fighting for common sense solutions over politics, to maintain sovereignty, expand Cherokee Community groups and against any attempts to disenfranchise at-large citizens” said Luttrell.

Native Times Political Announcement Policy: The Native Times will publish candidacy announcements as space allows. Announcements must fit into a three column by 5.25” space or less (this is approximately 310 words with a photo) including announcement header. The Native Times will not edit your submission to fit within this guideline. It will be returned to you for editing. Space is not guaranteed. If you wish to purchase guaranteed advertising space, rates and information are posted online for download at www.nativetimes.com under the “About Us” menu tab. You may also email lisa@nativetimes.com or call 918-708-5838 for ad rates. Political advertisements must be paid in full prior to publishing by check, money order or credit card.

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EVENTS

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*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyac@ihcrrc.org

APRIL 26
Veteran enrollment and information sharing event, 10am-2pm at Ponca Tribal Affairs Building, White Eagle, Okla. (Hwy 177). Bring a copy of your DD Form 214. More info call Jo Ann, 580-765-2501, ext. 2232

APRIL 26-27
Red Fern Festival, downtown Tahlequah, Okla. www.redfernfestival.com

APRIL 27
Kiowa Princess Election Powwow at Red Buffalo Hall in Carnegie. Info call 580-699-4450.

MAY 4
Benefit spaghetti dinner for Courtney (Bird) Arnold - diagnosed with Stage 3 cervical cancer, undergoing daily treatments. Funds to help with travel and living expenses. Kansas School Cafeteria, 4:30 p.m., live auction at 6pm. Dinner, Dessert & Drink \$6. Info or to donate, call Boo Cochran 918-316-3941 or Jennifer Barnes, 918-458-7575

MAY 7-8
Mother Earth's People Inter-tribal Council Powwow at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, 18000 Yates Road, Victorville, CA. For more info, contact Moreena Rocha Chavez at 1-760-245-2398 or at e-mail moreenac@yahoo.com.

MAY 11
GrayHorse War Mothers Soldier Dance. Contact: Mary Elsberry mcelsberry@hotmail.com Flag Raising at 1:30 War Dances at 7:30

MAY 18
2011-2012 Osage Princess, Dora Josephine Williams, Honor Dance, sponsored by the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, at the Pawhuska Fairgrounds Building, Pawhuska, OK. Info call 918-885-2976.

The Chokka Kilimpi department within the Youth and Family Division of The Chickasaw Nation is sponsoring a 5K Run, participants wanted. For more information, contact Sallie Wallace at (580) 221-3775.

MAY 31
Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

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Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 14
Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE from 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM and also on Saturday, June 15 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM –10:00 PM at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

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JUNE 21
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JUNE 28-30
Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribes.com Website:www.tonkawatribes.com

JUNE 29, 2013
Morrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JULY 4
Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-7
Pawnee Indian Veterans 67th Annual Homecoming, Memorial Park in Pawnee, Okla. Run and softball tournament Sat. at 8am. Parade Sat. at Noon. For complete schedule or info call DAVID ECHO HAWK, President: 918-873-0499 or visit online pawneeindianveteransorg@gmail.com or on Facebook at Pawnee Indian Veterans Organization (Official)



PHOTO COURTESY KANSAS ATHLETICS

A citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a graduate of Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla., Goodrich played collegiately at the University of Kansas and averaged 14 points and almost seven assists per game this season, leading the Jayhawks to a second consecutive Sweet Sixteen appearance.

Sequoyah alum becomes highest drafted Native woman in WNBA history

Prior to last week’s draft, Tahnee Robinson, Pawnee/Eastern Shoshone/ Northern Cheyenne/Sioux, was the only enrolled tribal citizen to be drafted by a WNBA team, with the Phoenix Mercury selecting her with the 31st pick of the 2011 draft. One other Native woman, Navajo Nation citizen Ryneldi Becenti, played as a free agent with the Mercury in 1997.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Cherokee Nation citizen Angel Goodrich became the highest drafted Native American woman in WNBA history when she was selected in the 29th round by the Tulsa Shock April 15.

A citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a graduate of Sequoyah High School, Goodrich played collegiately at the University of Kansas and averaged 14 points and almost seven assists per game this season, leading the Jayhawks to a second consecutive Sweet Sixteen appearance.

“The team that came up big in the third round is the Tulsa Shock,” ESPN analyst Rebecca Lobo said. “They came into tonight without a point guard. They got their starting guard in the first round and then picked up Angel Goodrich from Kansas.

“That kid has a real shot to make their roster.”

With their first round pick, the Shock selected University of Notre Dame point guard Skylar Diggins, a four-time All-American and two-time Big East Player of the Year. Diggins, whose team eliminated Goodrich’s Lady Jayhawks from the 2013 NCAA tournament, told Shock fans via Skype Monday night that she wants to take the team to the playoffs. The team has not

qualified for the postseason since relocating from Detroit to Tulsa in 2010.

“I just want to go to Tulsa and do my job,” Diggins said. “I’m excited about this opportunity. I can’t believe I’m here.”

Prior to Monday night’s draft, Tahnee Robinson was the only enrolled tribal citizen to be drafted by a WNBA team, with the Phoenix Mercury selecting her with the 31st pick of the 2011 draft. One other Native woman, Navajo Nation citizen Ryneldi Becenti, played as a free agent with the Mercury in 1997.

“Angel was the best available player at the time,” Shock coach Gary Kloppenburg said. “Yes, we took a point guard with our first round pick, but she can’t play all 40 minutes. We will need a back up.”

Starting with the 2013 season, Osage Casino is the marquee sponsor of Tulsa’s WNBA team, making them the only tribally-owned entity to be a presenting sponsor of a professional sports team. The WNBA’s Connecticut Sun, based in Uncasville, Conn., is owned by the Mohegan Tribe and plays at the tribe’s Mohegan Sun casino. However, logos for the tribe and its casino do not appear on the team’s jerseys.

The Shock’s home opener is May 27 against the Washington Mystics.



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Mission: The Mission of Murrow Indian Children’s Home is to provide a safe, nurturing environment, spiritual foundation, and cultural experience to Native American Children in crisis. 501 C-3 NON PROFIT

Head Staff:

Head Singer:
Tim Washee
Head Gourd Dancer:
Eli Crowels
Head Lady:
Savannah Waters
Head Man:
Thorpe Sine
Master of Ceremonies:
Choogie Kingfisher
Arena Director:
Robbie Anquoe
Color Guard:
Cherokee Color Guard

Schedule:

2:00PM Gourd Dance
5:00PM Supper Break
6:00PM Gourd Dance
7:00PM Grand Entry
11:00PM Closing Song

Bring Your Own lawn Chairs



Once-lost American Indian portraits go on display

BEMIDJI, Minn. (AP) – The old photographs and glass plates lay abandoned, dirty and dusty for years before David Cooper found them in his parent’s photo studio. It turned out they were shot by Danish emigre Niels Larson Hakkerup, who set up shop in Bemidji around 1900 and is considered one of the leading portrait photographers of American Indians.

The once-lost images have now gone on display at Bemidji State University, where they’ll be part of the permanent collection at the American Indian Resource Center, The Pioneer of Bemidji reported April 18.

The exhibit includes 22 large photos, and several smaller prints, taken between 1900

and 1915, showing members of the Leech Lake and Red Lake Nations.

Dominating the exhibit are photographs of Leech Lake elder John Smith, who died in 1922 at a reputed age of 137. He saw the first French fur traders come through the area and witnessed the land transformed through logging, mining and the expansion of the United States.

“He lived through the French, British and American regimes at a time when the Ojibwe and Dakota people were sparring for the land,” said Anton Treuer, executive director of the center. “You look at this deeply wrinkled, weathered face and you just wonder what it was like to see all that transformation in one

person’s lifetime.”

Also on display is a picture of Chief Bemidji, for whom the city is named. An original glass plate of Chief Bemidji that can be illuminated with a switch is also on display.

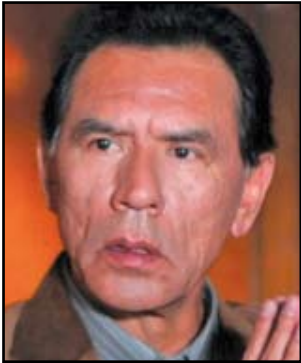
Hakkerup composed his portraits with a painterly eye, using light to focus the eye on beadwork, clothing and hair styles. His work is part of the collections at the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress Collection of American Indian Photographs, Minnesota Historical Society and the Beltrami County Historical Society.

Cooper’s parents, Aza and Miriam, purchased his studio in 1946. The

photographic plates were found in the rubble Hakkerup left behind after the sale. Former Bemidji State president Jon Quistgaard, a friend of David Cooper, persuaded him to donate the photographs to the IRC and spearheaded the effort to have them mounted.

Treuer, a professor of Ojibwe, said the Native American community appreciates the Cooper family’s gift. He said the exhibit will provide opportunities for people to understand more deeply the first people of the region.

“A photograph is more than just a pretty picture, it is a window into history,” he said.



Wes Studi

Actor Wes Studi to be in Western ‘Hall of Greats’

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – Actor Wes Studi is set to become the second Native American inducted into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s Hall of Great Western Performers in Oklahoma City.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports that the “Dances with Wolves” and “The Last of the Mohicans” star will be inducted Saturday with the late-film noir actor, Robert Mitchum.

The Arroyo Hondo resident is also known for his roles as the Apache leader in “Geronimo: An American Legend” and Navajo detective Joe Leaphorn in the made-for-TV movies based on mysteries by the late New Mexican writer Tony Hillerman.

The only other American Indian in the Hall of Great Western Performers is Jay Silverheels, a Canadian Mohawk First Nations actor known for playing Tonto in the 1950s television series “The Lone Ranger.”

Native author receives state’s highest honor

JOHN LAMB
The Forum

WAhPETON, N.D. (AP) – In many of her novels, Louise Erdrich writes about fictitious families on or near an unnamed and imagined reservation somewhere in eastern North Dakota.

In real life, Erdrich’s own story is rooted firmly in Wahpeton, where her parents, Ralph and Rita, still live. So when Erdrich received North Dakota’s highest honor last Friday night, it’s only fitting that was presented in her hometown with her family on hand.

“It is for my family and community,” Erdrich said, when asked what it means to win the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider award. “I’ve been lucky enough to work at what I love. That is because all of my life I’ve been loved and supported by my family and community.”

The 58-year-old also said in a recent interview that she’ll be happy to accept the award in the spirit of its namesake, Theodore Roosevelt, who she thinks would be branded a progressive in today’s political climate – a legacy she sees as a reflection of many of her own beliefs.

Erdrich is being honored for a body of work consisting of more than a dozen novels, three collections of poems and six children’s books.

From the time her first novel, “Love Medicine,” was published in 1984, Erdrich was a force in the literary world. “Love Medicine” won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction that year. “The Plague of Doves” was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 2009.

In November, her latest novel, “The Round House,” won the National Book Award for Fiction just weeks after it hit shelves.

In March, she celebrated the honor at a National Book Award reading at Concordia College. Two weeks

later she was named the 10th female Rough Rider and the 39th overall recipient.

“We tend to look at her as a regional writer because we want to claim her,” Greg Danz, a friend of Erdrich’s who has been selling her books at Zandbroz Variety in Fargo for more than 20 years, told The Forum. “But I think she transcends that with ‘The Round House.’ “

“The Round House” follows 13-year-old Joe as he seeks justice for a brutal attack on his mother. The book explores the cracks in the



Louise Erdrich

judicial process on reservations, particularly the inability to try a non-Indian of a crime on reservations.

When Erdrich was the featured guest at last summer’s North Dakota Humanities Council’s symposium, “Four Souls: Stories from America’s Borders,” she said she wanted to get more involved in issues of tribal justice.

As the House of Representatives prepared to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, Erdrich wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times with eye-opening statistics: one in three American Indian women is raped; federal prosecutors decline to prosecute 67 percent of sexual abuse cases; an American Indian woman battered by her non-Indian husband has no recourse for justice

in tribal courts; and more than 80 percent of sex crimes on reservations are committed by non-Indian men, who couldn’t be prosecuted by tribal courts.

While she said she was happy to write the piece, she doesn’t plan on being a spokeswoman for any cause.

“I really haven’t got the expertise to speak with a depth of knowledge,” she said. “I’m just a writer and a storyteller. And the book told a story that resonated with people enough to read more deeply into some of the legal issues on reservations.”

Erdrich may be reluctant to become a spokeswoman, but she has been active in certain causes, most notably promoting environmental issues.

She believes that Roosevelt, as a “trust buster,” would be handling oil development in western North Dakota differently than today’s politicians.

“He’d make the fossil fuel companies reaping huge profits in North Dakota clean up their mess, cap the methane, and build pipelines – nice, new, state-of-the-art pipelines to every community for natural gas and transmission lines for wind and solar,” she said. “Every North Dakotan should have free energy.”

She also sees her support of reproductive rights reflected in a comment Roosevelt made about his wife being closer to death while giving birth than he ever was in the battlefield.

“I found Roosevelt’s words poignant – nobody should force a woman to have a child, not even another woman,” Erdrich said. “I certainly wouldn’t be able to have written the books I have, or have devoted my life and energy to books the way I have, if I hadn’t had the chance to plan when I would have children.”

Speaking from her Twin Cities home, Erdrich still pays close attention to the politics in her home state and was upset about the recent

signing of anti-abortion laws.

“On this issue, I’m an old-fashioned Republican. Keep the government out of our intimate decisions,” she said. “All life is precious, including the lives of the most vulnerable women – the underage, the raped, the poor, those who can’t afford to go to Minneapolis for help.

“I’m writing a check right now to the Red River Women’s Clinic, so I might be the only colonel in the Rough Riders to do that,” she said with a laugh.

Despite her openness with her views, Erdrich didn’t share them at Friday’s acceptance speech.

“It’s really a celebration for us to get together and be with friends and family,” she said.

The next day, the Erdrich sisters – Louise, Lise, Heid and Angela – hosted a fundraiser for the Red Door Gallery, an old renovated bank in downtown Wahpeton their mother has been active in renovating. Like Louise, the other sisters are authors and advocates in some way and each will discuss their work.

She’s also looking forward to spending time with the family. She says each of the siblings will wear an item of clothing their mother Rita knitted.

“I am the daughter of two extremely intelligent, loving parents unafraid to live their convictions and state their thoughts,” she said.

She describes her father as a man who taught his children about nature and her mother as a devout Catholic of admirable faith and convictions who “made certain we applied to schools we thought beyond our reach.”

“My parents protected me and gave me the gift of an interesting childhood. They were schoolteachers and taught all they knew, 24/7,” she said. “My sisters and brothers have always had my back. I rely on them and love them.”

Tonto written as more than a sidekick

■ The Disney remake has Tonto in the role of coach to John Reid, the idealistic law school graduate who finds himself out of his depth when he returns to his hometown and eventually becomes the Lone Ranger.

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) – To watch a snippet of “The Lone Ranger” is to empathize with the stoic looks of concern its star, Johnny Depp, deadpans throughout the action film.

A white man playing Tonto, one of the most famous American Indian stereotypes of all time, might work. Then again, trouble might be coming.

In director Gore Verbinski’s remake of the popular 1950s Western television series, Depp speaks in broken English, chants prayers, and wears feathers, face paint and – for some reason – a stuffed crow headress.

But he also loses the subservience that helped make the original Tonto, played by a Canadian Mohawk, such a problematic sidekick to the masked hero.

The Disney remake has Tonto in the role of coach

to John Reid, the idealistic law school graduate who finds himself out of his depth when he returns to his hometown and eventually becomes the Lone Ranger.

Verbinski framed the film as a buddy picture with a zany Western edge Wednesday during a teaser screening at the movie theater convention CinemaCon in Las Vegas.

“The movie is an origin story,” he said before showing about 20 minutes of material. “You’ll get a sense about the delicate partnership that’s arranged between these two guys, and their wildly diverse sense of justice.”

Armie Hammer, who plays the square-jawed ranger, made a brief appearance with Depp, who was in full movie-star mode, sporting a cowboy hat, four gold necklaces, expensively ripped jeans and a bandanna hanging to his knees.

“Armie is very tall. Which means that we’re not short,”

Depp told the industry crowd.

“Anything to add to that?” Verbinski asked.

“No,” Depp responded, hoisting his microphone to the ceiling like a rock star and then strutting back off stage.

He might have been saving his voice for a fan question-and-answer session scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at a nearby Las Vegas theater.

At that appearance, the 49-year-old actor said he wanted his portrayal of Tonto “to give as much back to the human beings, the Native Americans as possible; to show that they have a fantastic sense of humor, very dry.”

“The goal was to try to, in my own small way, right the many wrongs that have been done to those people and to show Tonto not only as a proud warrior but also as a man outside, just a bit outside,” Depp said.

Verbinski also directed “Pirates of the Caribbean” films, and in “The Lone Ranger,” Depp appears to be reprising some elements of his flamboyant Jack Sparrow character, including what could be

the same head scarf.

Depp is not quite donning “red face,” as he wears a mask of white and black paint through the film. That heavy eye makeup sets off the whites of his eyes, which he widens to comic effect when

confronted with handcuffs, rifles and hurtling trains.

The film, set for release July 3, is Hollywood’s first attempt to modernize the Lone Ranger franchise, which has gathered dust for several generations.

Today’s viewers might not feel a shiver of recognition when John Reid’s brother tosses him a Texas Ranger pin, or when Tonto first calls him “kemosabe.”

And that might be a good thing.



As Tonto, Johnny Depp speaks in broken English, chant prayers and wears feathers, face paint and - for some reason - a stuffed crow headress.

FILE

- Inside this issue:
- Tribes partner on Chilocco wind farm
 - Step away from the frybread!
 - Race event funds annual powwow



NATIVE TIMES

Tribal leaders challenge decision to not extend tobacco compacts

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

STROUD, Okla. – Dissatisfied with her response, a group of Oklahoma tribal leaders



Chief George Tiger

“We profess to be sovereign, but the state has jammed their sovereignty down our throats.”
– Chief George Tiger, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

are challenging Gov. Mary Fallin’s decision to not extend tobacco expiring compacts. “These negotiations and compacts have been to the advantage of the state,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said. “We profess to be sovereign, but the state has jammed their sovereignty down our throats.” On March 18, 22 tribal

leaders signed a letter to the governor’s office, requesting current compacts be extended through August 2017. Tobacco compacts for 28 of Oklahoma’s 39 federally recognized tribes expire June 30. Despite tribal leaders’ request for a response by April 3, Fallin replied via email on April 4 that her office would only

See TOBACCO on Page 4

Keeping Indian children safe an ongoing challenge

CHUCK HAGA
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) – On a Spirit Lake reservation torn by factional infighting, the leader of an American Indian advocacy group arrives to find 25 percent of all Dakota Indian children living in foster care with white families. Two months later, five Dakota mothers and the tribal chairman accompany William Byler, director of the Association on American Indian Affairs, to New York. There, the mothers tell reporters their families certainly are poor, their children often without adequate food or shoes, but they are just as certainly loved. One, Mrs. Left Bear, tells that all five of her children had been taken from her despite her protests. Indian children should

remain with their families, she and the others say – for their identity and for the tribe’s identity. That happened in 1968. As Spirit Lake grapples today with issues of child protection, including foster care, the Grand Forks Herald reports that it faces some of the same vexing dilemmas the tribe faced in 1968 and before: chronic poverty and unemployment, internal feuds, the presence of known sex predators, and a lack of adequate housing, which can force three or four generations to share a roof. So how does the tribe best protect its children? In 1968, Byler wrote that the government needed “to expose the scandalous situation regarding forcible removal of Indian

See CHILDREN on Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY GATHERING OF NATIONS

Kansas Begaye from Rio Rancho, N.M., and citizen of the Navajo Diné Nation was crowned Miss Indian World at the 30th Annual Gathering of Nations, the most prominent Native American powwow in the world. Begaye received the honor out of 16 Native American women representing their different tribes and traditions who competed in the areas of tribal knowledge, dancing ability, public speaking, and personality assessment. She graduated from the University of New Mexico in 2011.

Thousands turn out for largest powwow

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) – A thunderous, rhythmic roar of jingling bells and beating drums rumbled through University of New Mexico Arena on Friday as hundreds of Native American and indigenous dancers gathered for the

start of powwow season. The three-day Gathering of Nations, North America’s largest powwow, drew more than 1,500 competitive dancers and tens of thousands of spectators from across the U.S. and parts of Canada and Mexico. The festivities kicked off with dancers from Saskatchewan and a drum group from Quebec in

acknowledgement of the “Idle No More” movement that is sweeping across Indian Country. “It just brings the people together, just to reassure that we all need to stick together for the purpose and for the cause, that we can’t forget who we are,” said Larry Yazzie, one of the powwow’s

See POWWOW on Page 2

Missing money: Feds halt funding for \$361M reservation pipeline

■ The irregularities are among several alleged corruption issues on the Rocky Boy’s reservation in northern Montana, said Kenneth Blatt St. Marks, a former tribal chairman.

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

BOX ELDER, Mont. (AP) – Federal officials temporarily stopped funding a \$361 million water pipeline for a Native American reservation in Montana after learning that millions of project dollars were missing and a Chippewa Cree leader in charge of the project steered federal dollars to a company he owns. The tribe has since replaced the missing money, but federal funding for the pipeline won’t resume until tribal leaders show they have permanently fixed the problems, Bureau of Reclamation regional director Michael J. Ryan said. “While we commend the tribe for restoring the funds soon after the shortage and for self-reporting the issue, this reallocation of funds without consultation is a serious non-

compliance matter with potentially long-lasting implications,” Ryan said in a March 18 letter obtained by The Associated Press. Pipeline funding is controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation, which is part of the Interior Department. Bureau



FILE PHOTO Kenneth Blatt St. Marks is escorted off tribal property in handcuffs in this March 2013 file photo. St. Marks was impeached by the tribe’s business committee, which charged him with seven offenses.

spokesman Tyler Johnson confirmed that the agency’s inspector general is conducting an investigation, but Johnson declined to provide details. The irregularities are among several

alleged corruption issues on the Rocky Boy’s reservation in northern Montana, said Kenneth Blatt St. Marks, a former tribal chairman. Marks said he reported the missing pipeline funds to the Bureau of Reclamation and that he is cooperating with the inspector general and with federal prosecutors in an investigation into alleged corruption on the reservation. “There’s millions and millions and millions of dollars missing here,” claimed St. Marks, whom Ryan also identified as having a potential conflict of interest in the pipeline project. “This reservation is upside down.” Calls to tribal officials were referred to attorney Dan Belcourt, who said he was not authorized by acting tribal chairman Richard Morsette to comment on the pipeline project or St. Marks’ allegations. Belcourt released a brief statement Saturday on behalf of tribal leaders that said they are “actively working with BOR on the issues raised in that letter.” “The tribe and BOR share a common goal of seeing the Rocky Boy’s/North Central Montana Regional Water System project through to completion,” the statement said. Congress approved the project in

See MONEY on Page 4



Kerr Dam

COURTESY MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Kerr Dam nearing tribal ownership

ROB CHANEY
Missoulian

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) – Taking over ownership and operations of Kerr Dam will be both a historic and legal triumph for the Flathead Reservation, according to a lawyer who’s shepherded the deal through 10 tribal councils. “The Salish and Kootenai tribes are really at the forefront for asserting their authority over natural resources on their lands,” Joe Hovenkotter told audience

members at the University of Montana School of Law’s Public Land Law Conference on Wednesday. Hovenkotter was legal adviser for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for 20 years before becoming general counsel to the reservation’s energy company in December. But the ability to reach that point went all the way back to the Hellgate Treaty of 1854 that created the Flathead Reservation,

See DAM on Page 4

Hopi Tribe wins round in Snowbowl lawsuit

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The Hopi Tribe has won a round in its bid to stop Flagstaff from selling reclaimed wastewater to Arizona Snowbowl.

On Thursday, the Arizona Court of Appeals overturned a 2011 ruling by a former Coconino County Superior Court judge.

The Arizona Daily Sun reports that clears the way for the tribe to challenge the city’s water contract with Snowbowl.

9th Circuit rules in Grand Canyon Skywalk dispute

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A federal appeals court says a Nevada developer must exhaust his legal battle over the Grand Canyon Skywalk contract dispute in tribal court before going to the federal level.

A lawyer for Las Vegas businessman David Jin told the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco last October that the Hualapai tribal court system lacks authority to hear the case.

Tribal attorneys say the

The appeals court ruled the tribe was early in filing a lawsuit ahead of December 2012 snowmaking, that the case wasn’t a delay tactic and it did raise new questions.

The Hopi are suing under an assertion that Flagstaff’s decision to sell reclaimed wastewater to the Snowbowl ski resort causes a public nuisance. The tribe says that interferes with much of the public’s ability to enjoy life or property.

operation of the popular glass bridge in northern Arizona is governed by Hualapai law.

Jin invested \$30 million to build the bridge that opened in 2007. He and the tribe have disagreed on management fees and an incomplete visitors’ center.

The tribal corporation that manages Skywalk also is appealing a \$28 million judgment for Jin upheld last month by an Arizona federal judge.

Oklahoma tribes partner with firm on wind farm

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

NEWKIRK, Okla. – Four tribes celebrated Earth Day April 22 by breaking ground on a new eco-friendly business enterprise at a former Indian boarding school.

Representatives from the Kaw Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Pawnee Nation and Ponca Nation met in Newkirk at the northern edge of the First Council Casino parking lot to bless the ground for a new wind farm.

The four northern Oklahoma tribes partnered with Chicago-based PNE Wind USA to launch the endeavor at Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, an old Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding institute near Newkirk in northern Kay County.

“The Otoe-Missouria Tribe is excited to be a part of this endeavor along with PNE and the other tribal partners,” Otoe-Missouria Tribe chairman John Shotton said. “This project has been in the planning stage for years and will finally come to fruition.”

Once completed, the wind farm will generate power from 45 turbines and employ 12 people. Work is expected to start in mid-July with road stabilization and other preliminary projects, creating an additional 200 jobs in the area. The wind farm is expected to come online in early 2014 and offset the annual fossil fuel usage of about 31,000 households.

“Today is important both in recognition of Earth Day and moving forward in what has been a 12-year

development,” PNE Wind USA managing director Andre de Rosa said. “We are proud to have members of each tribe present here today and for offering up thanks to the Creator for allowing us to get to this point and for the safety of all those involved. This project will bring economic development to the area and revenue

There are more than 20 wind farms across Oklahoma, including another one in Kay County near Blackwell.

Opened in 1884 in what was then the Cherokee Outlet, Chilocco closed in June 1980 after educating more than 17,000 Native students. The 165-acre property was leased to a drug rehabilitation program from 1989 to



FILE PHOTO
Four northern Oklahoma tribes have partnered with a Chicago-based firm to launch a wind farm on the former Chilocco Indian School property.

for the tribes. It will also provide clean, renewable energy for the region at a price comparable to conventional energy.”

2001 and has been closed to the public for several years. The land is held in trust for five northern Oklahoma tribes.

POWWOW

Continued from Page 1

masters of ceremonies.

Idle No More has garnered a worldwide following through social media while reopening constitutional issues involving the relationship between the federal government and Native

communities in the U.S. and Canada. The movement began after indigenous groups protested a Canadian proposal that they said would threaten their self-governance and control of traditional land bases.

Rallies have been held in many U.S. communities over the past year, giving way to more awareness and a new generation of activism

among Native Americans.

At the 30th annual Gathering of Nations, there was a renewed sense of pride among some dancers.

Aside from showing off their dance skills, some participants said the powwow was also a chance to reinvigorate interest in culture, particularly for younger generations.

The dancers donned traditional

dance outfits made of colorful beads, feathers, fringed leather and bells. It took close to an hour Friday as they poured into the bottom of the arena, better known as The Pit, for the grand entry.

Pounding their feet in rhythm with the drummers, the steady stream of dancers twisted in toward the center of the arena, getting tighter with each rotation, until the

floor was packed.

Spectators filled the stands, many watching through the screens of their cameras and smartphones.

Yazzie said the dances are just part of the traditions that need to be carried on. He also pointed to oral stories and medicines.

“Through history, we’ve been through a lot ... but we survive. We are warriors,” he said.

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Dakotas tribe displeased with planned summit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribal council have written a letter to a U.S. Congressman detailing their displeasure with a planned summit on foster care in South Dakota.

The tribal council members sent the letter last week to Rep. Ed Markey of Massachusetts about the summit, scheduled for May 15-17 in Rapid City.

The summit, hosted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will focus on Indian child foster care in the state after allegations surfaced that South Dakota was routinely breaking the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Markey was one of a handful of lawmakers who questioned the BIA about Native American child foster care in South Dakota following an NPR report in 2011 that said a disproportionate number of Native American children removed from their homes in South Dakota each year are sent to foster care in non-Indian homes or group homes.

State officials have called the NPR stories inaccurate, unfair and biased, but acknowledged a disproportionate number of Native American children are involved in the child welfare system because the state receives more referrals involving them regarding alleged abuse and neglect.

“We Lakota/Dakota leaders, therefore, find it

unacceptable that the BIA’s draft summit agenda ... fails to address any of NPR’s dominant claims, or to propose what we consider to be serious solutions to our crisis,” Standing Rock Sioux tribal chairman Charles Murphy and members of the tribal council wrote in the letter.

The letter listed changes the tribe would like to see to the agenda, including allowing former Sen. James Abourezk of South Dakota to speak. Abourezk chaired the yearlong Indian Policy Review Commission in 1977 that resulted in the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The BIA did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Earth Day walk touts coal-to-solar efforts

MOAPA, Nev. (AP) – Plans call for Nevada’s largest utility to close three of four units by 2014 at the coal-fired plant in Moapa about 40 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The fourth unit would remain operating until 2017.

Activists and faith leaders joined the “Coal to Clean Energy” walk Saturday from NV Energy’s Reid Gardner generation station to a planned 350-megawatt solar project on the Moapa Paiute Reservation.

The march took place about two weeks after NV Energy announced plans to begin closing Reid Gardner and invest more money in renewable energy.

“We want to make sure that the coal plant does indeed close and stays closed,” Moapa Band of Paiutes Chairman William Anderson said Saturday. “We don’t want the coal plant to be replaced by another polluting power plant like a (natural) gas plant. We want a switch to truly cleansustainableenergy sources like the solar project that will be built in our reservation.”

Mississippi AG supports Indian adoption law

■ AG Jim Hood has an interest in the case because the law applies to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the state’s only federally recognized tribe.

v. Baby Girl.

Hood has an interest in the case because the law applies to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the state’s only federally recognized tribe.

The Supreme Court has taken up the act only once before, in the case Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians v. Holyfield.

Decided in 1989, the case’s precedent has been applied to hundreds of American Indian custody cases.

“The act protects Indian children, their parents, and their tribes regardless of the Indian parent’s custodial status,” Hood said in a brief filed on behalf of Mississippi.

“The act also affords rights to the Indian child’s tribe, and a non-Indian mother cannot unilaterally abrogate those rights even when she has sole

custody of the Indian child,” the brief stated.

The ruling continues to affect Mississippi Choctaws, said chief Phyllis Anderson.

In the Holyfield case, a woman tribe member gave birth to twins in Harrison County, then signed documents allowing for adoption of the children by a non-Indian couple.

The court found that despite giving birth about 200 miles from the Choctaw reservation in Neshoba County, the Indian Child Welfare Act still gave jurisdiction over adoptions to tribal courts.

“The tribal court ultimately approved the placement of the Choctaw children involved in Holyfield with the non-Indian couple who had attempted to adopt them in state court,” Anderson said.

CHILDREN

Continued from Page 1

youngsters without due process of law, which has reached epidemic proportions.”

RECALLING HISTORY

The account appears in “Mni Wakan Oyate (Spirit Lake Nation), a History of the Sisuwan, Wahpeton, Pabaksa and other Dakota that Settled at Spirit Lake, North Dakota,” published in 2007 and commissioned by Cynthia Lindquist, president of Cankdeska Cikana Community College.

“I believed it was important that we have sources for who we are innately as a people,” Lindquist said.

To preserve its culture and identity while “being in both worlds,” the tribe and its members – and non-Indian people who would deal with them – need to understand the harmful effects of boarding schools and other attempts at assimilation, she said.

“We have to deal with the stereotypes,” she said. “We have to know how this country was settled and how the people who were here were treated. That history is what happened to us, and understanding it helps to explain this sense of helplessness that so many feel.

“But despite everything – the denial of culture, sex abuse by the churches and boarding schools, the alcohol and all the traumas – we are still here. We have a culture.”

The history of how Spirit Lake came to be “shows the importance of believing in something,” Lindquist said, the power of “the spiritual belief of indigenous people, and the importance of relationships. We have to unlearn the dependent lifestyle we have been forced to live.”

SETTING A PRIORITY

In 1978, Congress responded to the high numbers of Indian children being removed from their homes by passing the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA.

The intent, Congress said, was to “protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families.” That would be done by setting standards to be met in state child custody cases involving Indian children.

Some non-Indian foster parents who have taken in children from Spirit Lake say they are frustrated and confused by practices that seem not to be in the children’s best interests. They describe – on background, due to privacy concerns and confidentiality agreements– how Indian children are sometimes returned to homes despite clear evidence of drug and alcohol abuse, violence and neglect.

“Kids get sent back who never should be sent back,” one foster mother said.

Tribal and foster care officials will not discuss specific cases involving minor children.

WHO’S AT FAULT?

Controversy over the sexual abuse of children at Spirit Lake raises other complications: How extensive, actually, is the problem? What policies,

actions or inactions contribute to it? What should be done to better protect vulnerable kids?

Some at Spirit Lake and beyond fault tribal and federal officials for not aggressively pursuing cases of alleged abuse and neglect, including several cited in reports by federal whistleblower Thomas Sullivan with the Administration for Children and Families in Denver.

The U.S. attorney for North Dakota and other officials have told Spirit Lake members that all cases of suspected abuse brought to their attention have been or are being investigated. In some cases, available testimony and evidence would not support prosecution, they said. Other cases remain open.

Shirley Cain, chief tribal judge at Spirit Lake, has said no children are placed by the court with registered sex offenders. That does not mean, however, that no children wind up in reservation homes where members of the extended family may include a convicted and registered sex offender, whose status does not necessarily mean he is legally barred from living in a home with children.

INDIAN HOMES

ICWA applies off-reservation. Most reservations have implemented their own standards, also asserting the primacy of Indian homes for Indian children.

At Spirit Lake, Cain and other tribal officials say their first priority is to place an Indian child with close family members. The next preferred placement is with members of the extended family, then with another Indian family, and finally with a non-Indian family.

Such policies help to safeguard tribal culture and individual and tribal identity, said Erich Longie, a Spirit Lake elder who manages a consulting company on the reservation and leads workshops on traditional Dakota Indian values.

“I understand the argument we can’t return them to abusive homes,” he said. But non-Indians also need to understand history, he said.

“Go back to the boarding school days,” he said, when Indian children routinely were shipped off to white-run schools where they were not allowed to speak their own language or practice other traditions.

“I caught the tail end of them,” he said. “I went to a (Bureau of Indian Affairs) school. My mom... when she talked about the boarding schools, she talked about how hard it was to learn the language, how misunderstanding the teachers were. They had no clue what Indian people were about. They did everything they could to erase their culture.

“Out of that developed a deep suspicion that the white man is going to change you, take all that’s Indian out of you.”

Longie, who is among Spirit Lake elders who have called for change in tribal leadership, served on a state commission assigned to study racial and ethnic disparities in North Dakota courts.

“They wanted to know, ‘Why do Indian defendants always plead guilty?’ Well, some of them are guilty. But part of the reason is we are two separate societies, and we know when we go off the reservation we’re in a completely different world – and at the mercy of that other society,” he said.

Prospective white foster parents may be wonderful, loving people with the best of intentions

for Indian children, he said, “but they come from a different world, a world we could never be part of, yet they come to our world and have complete control. They take our children and put them in homes far away, just like boarding school.

“That’s the hard choice” facing social workers and others, he said. Where should the children be? Where will they be safe?

‘UNJUST REMOVAL’

After his 1968 visit to Spirit Lake, Byler reported: “As sad and terrible as conditions are that Indian children must face as they grow up, nothing exceeds the cruelty of being unjustly and unnecessarily removed from their families. Today, in this Indian community, a welfare worker is looked (upon)... as a symbol of fear rather than of hope.”

He quoted one of the mothers, Alvina Alberts.

“They want to assimilate Indians into the white race,” she said. “They’re starting with the kids because they couldn’t do it to us. They are using white middle-class standards to judge the Indian way of life....

“We want our children and our grandchildren, but we are not allowed to keep them. We are told we have no rights. Sometimes we don’t know which way to turn or what to do. We need help. We are too backward. Sometimes our people just despair and give up their children without a fight.”

The mothers appealed to federal officials in Washington, who sent a child welfare consultant to Spirit Lake.

“She later reported that there was 1) too little casework service to prevent family break-up on the reservation, 2) a lack of knowledge about legal procedures for placing children in foster care, and 3) too many older foster caregivers,” Diedrich wrote in his history of the Spirit Lake Nation.

Two years later, in 1970, the tribe hosted a conference on child welfare for tribal, county, state and federal representatives. Much of the talk centered on needs: family counseling, juvenile delinquency programs, better housing.

The tribe is still talking about those needs.

‘THEY WERE LOST’


“I remember in the years before ICWA, many friends of my youth were taken away,” Longie said. “As soon as they turned 18, they returned,” he said. “But they were lost, many of them. They didn’t know who they were. They didn’t feel part of that outside world, but you were gone so long you don’t feel part of this world, either.

“Many, because of that, had a tough life, a short life. They couldn’t cope with the extreme changes in their lives. They often turned to drugs and alcohol. So why should we want to keep sending our kids off the reservation?”

How, then, should the tribe secure its children against predators?

“We need to return to our traditional values and encourage honesty, courage, generosity and perseverance,” Longie said. “If you live by those values, your life won’t be dysfunctional, and we will have good parents, good teachers, and good leaders who will lead us in a proper manner.

“Of course, that’s easier said than done. To live by those values, you have to have been raised by those values. I was, and that has given me a satisfaction with my life here I couldn’t find anywhere else.”



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Vote to revoke Indian cultural center delayed

SCOTT BAUERA
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – The state Building Commission agreed Wednesday to delay voting on rescinding a \$250,000 grant to help create a Native American cultural center after the Republican lawmaker pushing for it said he was hopeful a compromise could be reached on walleye spearfishing limits.

Rep. Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, proposed taking away the money given to the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa as retribution for the six Chippewa tribes raising their walleye spearfishing goals by about 5,300 walleye. That resulted in state wildlife officials imposing a one-fish limit for other non-tribal anglers on nearly 200 northern Wisconsin lakes.

Kaufert, chairman of the Assembly’s tourism committee and vice chairman of the Building Commission, said such a limit would be devastating for tourism in the north woods. But he backed away from seeking to reclaim the cultural center grant money after speaking with state Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp.

She plans to meet Monday with tribal leaders to discuss reaching a deal, perhaps by increasing the number of walleye released from fish hatcheries, Kaufert said.

Stepp’s spokesman, Bill Cosh, confirmed that a meeting was taking place on Monday but did not say what proposals Stepp would be offering.

“We’re going to continue our efforts to meet with the tribes and move forward on common ground, which is we all agree we want more fish in the north,” Cosh said.

Gov. Scott Walker, a member of the Building Commission, said he opposed taking back the cultural center money as Kaufert originally proposed.

“I support the center,” said Walker, who included state support for it in his last budget. “It’s an important project.”

Walker said he was hopeful an agreement could be reached before next month’s Building Commission meeting to avoid a vote on taking back the money.

The two Democratic members, Sen. Fred Risser of Madison and Rep. Gordon Hintz of Oshkosh, opposed even considering taking the cultural center money. Risser said he didn’t think the commission should hold funding of the cultural center “hostage” because of a dispute over spearfishing limits.

Work is already underway to convert a former dormitory for boys in Lac du Flambeau into the cultural center, said Ruben Santiesteban, a tribal council member who attended the meeting. The center will serve as a place to educate both tribal members and others about Lac du Flambeau history, he said.

“I want to see that we all do work together and help educate one another,” he said.

But Kaufert said the tribes have been unwilling to compromise, leading to an increase in disputes with the state over the past two years.

The tribes universally opposed a bill passed in March by the Legislature to make it easier to begin mining for iron ore just south of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa’s reservation in Ashland County. Republicans further inflamed the Chippewa last year when they established a wolf hunt, which the tribes opposed.

Last fall, the Chippewa authorized tribal members to kill an elk, a species the DNR has been struggling to re-establish in Wisconsin for nearly 20 years. They also authorized tribal hunters to kill deer at night despite the DNR’s long-standing ban on the practice.

The tribes argued that since state hunters can hunt wolves at night they should be allowed to hunt deer in the dark. The tribes filed a lawsuit demanding a federal judge allow the night hunt; the judge refused but the case is still pending.

TOBACCO

Continued from Page 1

grant short-term extensions to tribes that are still engaged in “serious good-faith” negotiations with the state on June 30.

In response, the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas sent a letter to the governor’s office Tuesday, requesting an explanation by April 30 as to why Fallin has not been participating in the negotiating process and why extending existing compacts is not an option. Fallin’s general counsel, Steve Mullins, has been the state’s lead negotiator in compact talks.

“Compacts are complex legal documents that both the governor and tribal leaders negotiate through lawyers,” Gov. Fallin’s spokesman, Alex Weintz said. “General counsel Steve Mullins serves as the governor’s lawyer.”

So far, only two tribes, the Kaw Nation and the Concho government of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, have signed new compacts this year, which take effect July 1. Neither new compact includes most favored nation clauses or border tax rates, which the governor’s

office has publicly come out against. Under the current compacts, lower tax rates are available for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Arkansas, Kansas or Missouri, which have lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops.

Under the expiring compacts, tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri can sell cigarette packs with either a 6-cent or 25-cent tax stamp in order to better compete with lower excise taxes in those neighboring states. Compacted tribal smoke shops outside that 20-mile radius sell cigarettes with either a 52-cent stamp or an 86-cent stamp. Tribal smoke shops without a compact and non-tribal tobacco retailers must sell cigarettes to the public with a \$1.03 stamp.

Both agreements call for the state to eventually receive half of the tax revenue from the tribes’ tobacco sales, a move that several tribes are not interested in repeating.

“I’m not even going to think about a 50-50 deal,” Tonkawa Tribe President Don Patterson said. “It is not even in my mind.

“My starting point is 25 percent. I

might be willing to come up a percent or two – not more than that. I might get 50 percent forced upon me but I am not going to negotiate for that. I would be willing...to negotiate it up to 35 percent over five years to where it would be a 65-35 division, but no more than that.”

Based in north central Oklahoma, the Tonkawa Tribe has three smoke shops, all of which sell cigarettes at border rates.

The organization, which counts more than 30 tribal governments among its members, is also asking the governor’s office to confine the negotiations only to tobacco compacts at this time. Both the Kaw Nation and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes signed burn ban agreements with their tobacco compacts earlier this year. During their tobacco negotiations last year, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was approached about other potential compacts with the state but declined.

“When we negotiated our tobacco compact, we said it would be only that,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation George Tiger said. “We were asked about other potential agreements and said no.”

Weintz said the state did not initiate discussions about burn bans but that Gov. Fallin “looks forward to entering into similar agreements with other tribes.”

DAM

Continued from Page 1

Hovenkotter said. It also demonstrated the tribal community’s own maturity as an organization that could operate a major hydropower dam, market its electricity, address its environmental impacts and deal with both governmental and private energy sectors.

“There are other tribes positioning themselves to try something like this,” said Sarah Bates of UM’s Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy. “This is the model for the rest of the country. They’ve had a remarkable vision for restoring what was lost over all those years.”

Kerr Dam sits on the Flathead River, five miles below the foot of Flathead Lake. It possesses many unusual qualities, compared to other hydropower dams. For instance, it doesn’t change the historic levels of Flathead Lake like the way Hungry Horse Dam drains and refills its reservoir.

And because Flathead Lake catches most of its sediment and provides a nearly constant level of water pressure year-round, Kerr Dam has the ability to speed up or slow down its electricity generation. That made it extremely profitable because it could sell power at the peaks and valleys of daily electricity usage.

But that variable water flow damaged

the habitat of the Flathead River for miles below the dam. In 1987, the tribes won the argument to switch the dam to a base-load format, meaning it produces a constant amount of power each day. That reduced the income it could generate, but also made a huge improvement to the riverside habitat in the reservation.

Anyway, for decades after its construction in 1939 the tribes got little of the money it produced. While they’ve been lately receiving \$19 million a year in rent, the dam has generated between \$20 million and \$60 million a year, depending on energy prices. It is capable of lighting 95,000 homes with its 1.1 million megawatt-hour turbines.

Hovenkotter said the Hellgate Treaty was important because unlike many other tribal treaties in Montana, this one gave the Flathead Reservation members rights to access and use waterways outside their homeland. That made the CSKT a player in decisions affecting the entire Columbia River system.

The tribes recently used this authority to get a seat at the table on the Streamside Tailings Consent Decree that created a multi-million-dollar account to repair mining damage to the Clark Fork River. The tribes received \$18.3 million in that settlement, \$13.5 million of which went to recover land and habitat lost when large chunks of the reservation were sold to outsiders in the 1904.

About the same time Kerr Dam was being built, Hovenkotter said the CSKT became the first American Indian tribe to set up its own constitutional government.

That gave it the theoretical power to take over the dam, although it took decades of legal wrangling to work that out.

The biggest challenge, he said was setting up a way for the tribes to work with private utility companies in the United States. As a sovereign nation, it didn’t want to simply hand over its authority to the U.S. court system. But that also scared away private business partners, who couldn’t be sure under whose legal framework any disputes might get decided.

The creation of Energy Keepers LLC has fixed that by presenting a tribally owned business that operates in the U.S. framework. CSKT expects to buy Kerr Dam from its owner, PPL Montana, in 2015. It then wants to get a new 50-year license to operate as a power provider.

There’s still the matter of the price of the dam, Hovenkotter said. PPL has valued it at about \$51.5 million. But the tribes argue that \$34 million of that would pay back investments that PPL’s ratepayers have already paid, so the price should be closer to \$16 million.

Either way, the tribal council has already capitalized its energy business with enough funds to cover the low and high price. Hovenkotter said it was a demonstration of the reservation’s commitment to taking on the dam and all its responsibilities. They expect to close the deal in 2015.

“We’ve always talked about this date coming,” said Indian law attorney Daniel Belcourt. “Now it’s here.”

MONEY

Continued from Page 1

2002 to bring reliable drinking water to the poverty-stricken reservation in the shadow of Montana’s Bear Paw mountains. Construction began in 2006, and when it is completed, the pipeline will run about 50 miles from Lake Elwell, serving as many as 30,000 people on and off the reservation.

Congress originally estimated the project’s cost at \$228 million. That has since risen to \$361 million due to inflation and rising costs.

It was unclear what effect a funding delay would have on constructing the pipeline, which is now 22 percent complete. As of last year, the bureau had allocated \$96 million in addition to \$10 million allocated by Congress.

St. Marks said that, as then-tribal chairman, he discovered at a Dec. 31 meeting with tribal leaders that \$3.5 million was missing from Chippewa Cree bank accounts for the water project. Johnson declined to confirm the amount missing, saying it was part of the investigation.

No one could explain where the money went, St. Marks said. The meeting was held at the Chippewa Cree Construction Corp., the company that heads the project.

St. Marks reported the missing funds to the Bureau of Reclamation. In

January, the Chippewa Cree Business Committee – the tribe’s governing council – replaced the money with cash from other tribal enterprises, he said.

It still is not clear what happened to the missing money.

Tony Belcourt is CEO of the construction company and head of the pipeline project. Belcourt also co-owns MT Waterworks, a company formed in 2010 that was awarded a \$633,000 contract by the tribal construction corporation he heads to supply pipe for the project.

St. Marks said he fired Belcourt as the construction corporation’s CEO after the Bureau of Reclamation learned of that conflict of interest. But the eight other members of the ruling Chippewa Cree Business Committee reinstated Belcourt while St. Marks was on a trip to Washington, D.C.

That reinstatement, and St. Marks’ ownership in another company that was awarded a separate \$1.9 million contract for the pipeline, prompted Ryan in his letter to tell the tribe to correct the ethics violations.

“We request that the tribe take immediate corrective action to remedy these apparent conflicts of interest,” Ryan wrote. He did not elaborate on what action the tribe had to take.

Belcourt, a former state legislator, declined to comment Friday and referred questions to his cousin, tribal attorney Dan Belcourt, who said he was not authorized to comment.

St. Marks was the owner of Arrow Enterprises, a private construction company that was awarded the \$1.9 million contract before he became the tribe’s chairman. St. Marks said he turned over the company to his wife to end any conflict of interest.

But Johnson, of the Bureau of Reclamation, said the federal agency has not accepted that arrangement and the agency is requesting action to resolve the conflict.


In his letter, Ryan said the Chippewa Cree’s accounting of project funds was not accurate and lacked supporting data such as bank statements, balance sheets and expense statements. Johnson said Friday that the tribe has submitted additional financial information and corrected its accounting.

Still, Ryan gave the tribe until April 29 to resolve the rest of the problems and avoid more funding delays.

St. Marks became tribal chairman in November but was impeached in March by the business committee, which leveled seven charges against him ranging from inappropriate sexual comments to an employee to trading in two tribal vehicles so he could buy a sport-utility vehicle for personal use.

St. Marks denied the charges. He claimed he was impeached for cooperating with the federal investigation and for asking questions about the finances of some of the tribe’s biggest enterprises: its casino, health clinic and an online lender.

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Pawnee Business Council Candidate Announcement

Nowa! I'm Ken Murie and I'm asking for your vote for the Vice-Presidency of the Pawnee Business Council on May 4th. I believe it's time for full accountability and positive action in our nation. For far too long the present tribal council has been unable to properly provide for our Pawnee people. By looking closely at the council's decisions and actions, one begins to understand the full scope of the lack of responsibility exercised on the Pawnee Nation's behalf by current and past council members and I believe it's about time that our house was put in order.

I've had time to speak to many of you regarding your concerns and we share many of the same questions, questions that demand to be answered and mandate that proper solutions be implemented. But without your input and vote, I cannot take action from within the council to

address them. Our nation needs honest leaders on the business council that are more concerned about enriching the tribe and all tribal members, rather than just enriching only themselves.

Those of you that know me know that my family is from here and that I grew up here. I attended high school and college here. I served twenty-one years as a certified state and federal law enforcement officer, with eleven of those years as chief of police and twelve years as a tribal employee here. I'm proud of my history of public service and my time as a veteran of the U.S. Army and am grateful to contribute these days to church services as an ordained minister. I am the most proud of my Pawnee heritage. However, it breaks my heart to see the consequences of the ineffective and unethical leadership of our council--this while other tribes in this region have successfully managed and



Ken Murie

distributed the large financial windfalls afforded their tribes by their gaming facilities and business investments.

If you're ready for honest, effective and transparent leadership on the business council, then I'd appreciate your vote on May 4th.

I'm Ken Murie and I'd be honored to serve as your Vice-President of the Pawnee Business Council.

Celebrate the Graduate

It is a pleasure to announce that your family and friends are proud of your achievement in the May 2013 graduating class at the University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman, Ok with a Master's Degree in the Science of Human Relations which is a disciplinary professional field of study needed in an ever changing diverse culture in the workforce today. Sheria is a hard working young lady that accomplishes the goals she sets out to obtain and has many accomplishments already. She is also a member of the Delta Sorority and travels. She is of the Native American decent and a tribal member and citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation located in Okmulgee, Ok.

We would like to say continue to climb the ladder of success and be blessed throughout all the years ahead. "So, live your life passionately, with purpose making a difference, be all that you can be, have fun, be awesome, stay healthy and most of all believe in you!!(Ricardo Housham). You've graduated and earned the Master's Degree, it's time to celebrate this great accomplishment in life. CONGRATS. - From the Family



Sheria Caesar

Walking On: Marlon Joe Charles

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. - Marlon Joe Charles was born on August 16th, 1960 in Kingfisher, Okla., the son of Farris and Dixie (Stewart) Charles. He went to work at Ozark and Midwestern Container working in the transportation of plants, and also worked at NSU as a Sanitation Technician, and at Creek Nation Casino in Muskogee. He married Edie Coldwell on December 30th, 1981 in Tahlequah.

Together they raised two children, Christopher Dixon and Lisa Dixon. Marlon was a quiet, kind, considerate man, happiest to be with those he loved, and in his own home. He had an easy going style and a warm smile. He enjoyed beadwork, working out in his yard, and playing softball. He loved any chance he got to be with his wife, children, and family was simply the best. He adored his grandchildren and was very proud of all they

accomplished. Marlon was called to his eternal rest on April 23rd, 2013 in Tahlequah at the age of 52. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Marlon is preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Lucy Charles and Charlie and Ernestine Stewart, father-in-law, Jack Nicholas, brother-in-law, Jack Nicholas Jr., nephew, Tyler Joe Charles, and nephew Brice Fishinghawk's wife, Samantha.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Edie of the home, both mother and father of Park Hill, his son, Christopher Dixon of Teresita, his daughter, Lisa Dixon and friend Josh Hope of Tahlequah, two brothers, Travis Charles of Park Hill, and Marty Charles and wife Nadine of Woodall. He leaves two sisters, Staci Crow and husband Ronnie of Briggs, and Lisa Charles of Park Hill. His legacy lives on in



Marlon Joe Charles

his grandchildren, Chase Austin Dixon of Tahlequah, and Megan Dawn Dixon of Foyle, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends and loved ones.

Funeral services for Marlon Joe Charles were held April 26th, 2013. Interment is at Price Cemetery. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.reedculver.com.

Walking On: Monetta J. Trepp

It is with great sadness that we at the National Indian Monument and Institute announce the passing of Monetta J. Trepp.

For many years Monetta Trepp has been instrumental in the preservation of American Indian culture through the Tulsa Indian Art Festival (co-founder), the American Indian Theatre Company of Oklahoma (Board Chairperson), the National Indian Monument and Institute (Founder and CEO) and the American Indian Arts Association (Founder). Mrs. Trepp was a graduate of Oklahoma State University and a citizen of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation.

She was the owner of the Perryman Ranch in Jenks, OK. The Perryman Ranch was established before Oklahoma statehood and is the Creek allotment of Mose S. Perryman, son of Tulsa's

"First Family," George and Rachel Perryman. George Perryman signed the original 1898 Charter for the "Town" of Tulsa. The family's many achievements ultimately helped shape not only the great city of Tulsa, but the neighboring Muskogee (Creek) Nation as well. Monetta is the daughter of the late Edith Perryman Johnson and the granddaughter of Mose Perryman. In the Tulsa area the ranch, a cemetery, a memorial highway and granite marker indicating the location of the city's first official post office all carry the Perryman name

In lieu of flowers or plants, Monetta would appreciate a donation to your favorite charity..... or to one of hers:

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Monetta J. Trepp

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COMMENTARY ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Holocaust Museum should be built at Wounded Knee

NOTES FROM
INDIAN COUNTRY

TIM GIAGO
Nanwica Kciji

Since 1492 the history of the Western Hemisphere has been marked by one of the greatest holocausts in the history of the world.

There are no true figures to quote about how many millions of indigenous people have perished in this land that was once their own. Those who wrote the history of the settlement of these lands often reduced the numbers of deaths because they were so high that it would make the invaders of this land appear in history has blood thirsty barbarians.

No culture wants to be remembered like this.

But somewhere in the books of man there is a compilation of the millions of indigenous people who died at the hands of the invaders whether by guns, knives or diseases.

In Washington D. C. there is a museum to mark the holocaust brought upon the Jewish people by Adolph Hitler. It is a place of tragedy and yet it reminds the world of what happened to the Jews in hopes that this will never happen again. More than 6 million Jews died in the death camps operated by the Nazis and the Holocaust Museum stands as a stark reminder of these tragedies. Perhaps five to ten times

that number of indigenous people died beginning in 1492.

It would be prophetic if the Oglala Sioux Tribe would build a holocaust museum to educate and to remind the world of what happened to the indigenous people of the Western Hemisphere. From South America, Central America and North America, millions of indigenous people died protecting and defending what was theirs.

What happened to the Native people everywhere in the Western Hemisphere is one of the most shameful chapters in the history of mankind on this planet called earth.

Wounded Knee may have been the final chapter on

this holocaust of indigenous people. It is only right that the Oglala Lakota build a Holocaust Museum of the Indigenous People right here on the grounds where the massacre of the Lakota took place on December 29, 1890.

The museum could house the history of the millions who died from the tip of South America to the top of North America. Every indigenous tribe has its stories of the death and destruction that was visited upon their people. A museum of this nature would draw visitors from around the world and it would inform and educate the masses as to the true history of the Natives of this Hemisphere. But more than

that, the museum would serve as a stark reminder that the hands of the invaders were not clean, but they were the hands of a people who tried in vain to destroy a culture and a people.

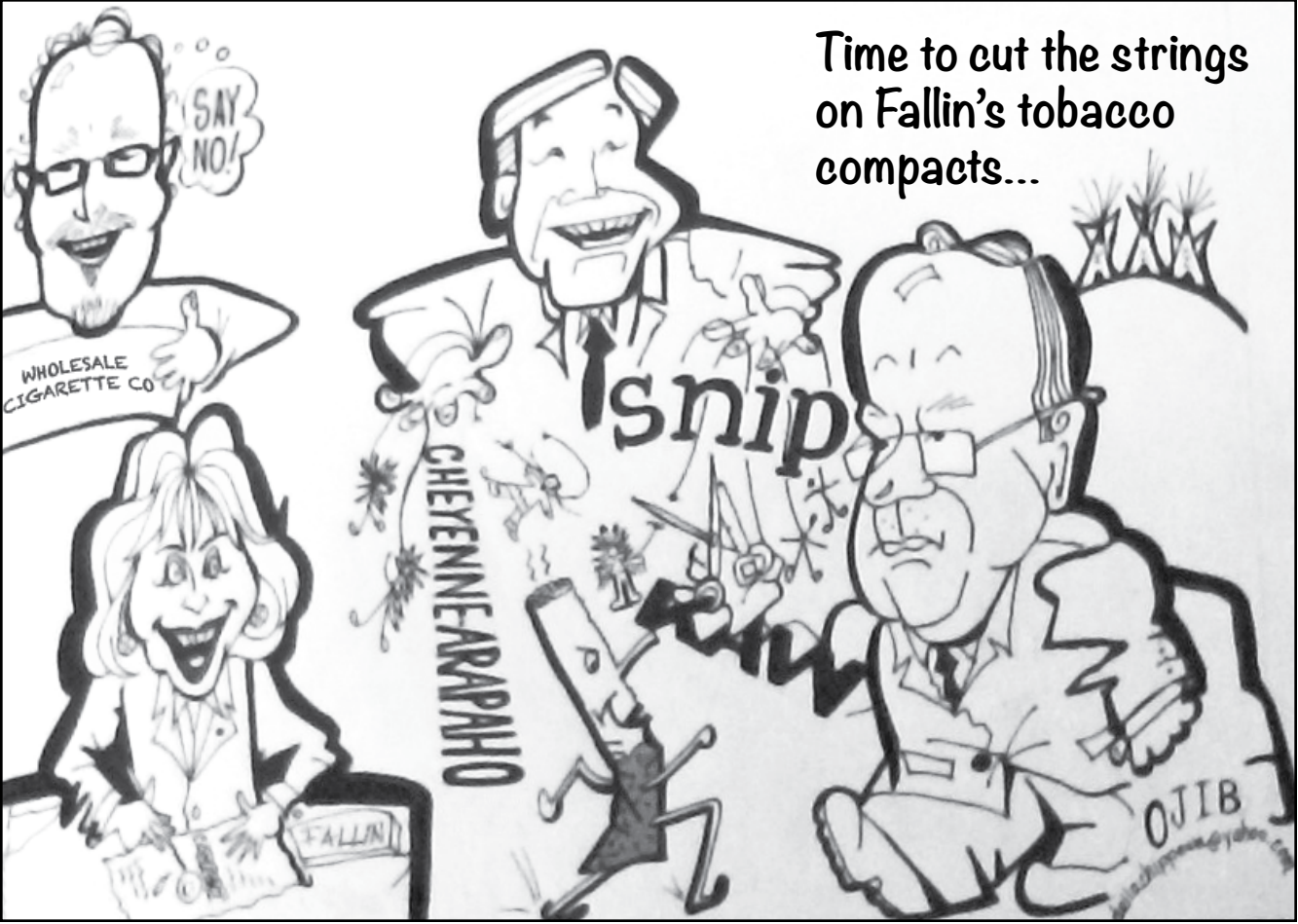
Whether that destruction came in the form of forced religions or in the quest for gold, indigenous people died in its wake. There are hundreds of stories to be told and hundreds of photos and artifacts to substantiate the holocaust of the Native people. It should be a priority venture for the Oglala Sioux Tribe and there should be many wealthy people and the United States government itself that would contribute money and the expertise to make the Holocaust

Museum of the Indigenous People a reality.

It is time to stop talking about the genocide foisted upon us and to do something about it. This idea is one that is achievable. We now need the Lakota people of vision to cease upon it and make it happen. It is time to tell the true history of the invasion of the Americas and about the millions of deaths that ensued.

And the Lakota People should be the leaders in this endeavor because for all intent and purposes, the holocaust of the indigenous people ended on the Sacred Grounds at Wounded Knee.

You may contact Tim Giago at unitysodak1@knology.net




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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY

Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrrc.org

MAY 4

Bacone College Spring Commencement, 2pm, Muskogee Civic Center, 425 Boston Ave, Muskogee, Okla.

Benefit spaghetti dinner for Courtney (Bird) Arnold - diagnosed with Stage 3 cervical cancer, undergoing daily treatments. Funds to help with travel and living expenses. Kansas School Cafeteria, 4:30 p.m., live auction at 6pm. Dinner, Dessert & Drink \$6. Info or to donate, call Boo Cochran 918-316-3941 or Jennifer Barnes, 918-458-7575

MAY 7-8

Mother Earth's People Inter-tribal Council Powwow at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, 18000 Yates Road, Victorville, CA. For more info, contact Moreena Rocha Chavez at 1-760-245-2398 or at e-mail moreenac@yahoo.com.
MAY 11
GrayHorse War Mothers Soldier Dance. Contact: Mary Elsberry mcelsberry@hotmail.com
Flag Raising at 1:30 War Dances at 7:30
11th Anniversary Dance For Mr.

and Mrs. Jasper and Lavina Clark at Wah^Zha^Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main Pawhuska. Starts at 1:30, supper at 5 p.m. 6:30 round dance; 7:00 p.m. Gourd Dance for more information call Jasper Clark 918/948/5936 roubedeauxoney@aol.com

MAY 18

2011-2012 Osage Princess, Dora Josephine Williams, Honor Dance, sponsored by the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, at the Pawhuska Fairgrounds Building, Pawhuska, OK. Info call 918-885-2976.

The Chokka Kilimpi department within the Youth and Family Division of The Chickasaw Nation is sponsoring a 5K Run, participants wanted. For more information, contact Sallie Wallace at (580) 221-3775.

MAY 31

Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 1

Birthday Dance honoring Henry A Lieb, Jr. at Ponca Tribe Cultural Center, White Eagle, Okla. War dance at 2pm; Meal at 5pm; Soldier Dance at 6:30pm and Gourd Dance at 7pm. Special contests! For more info call Kinsel Lieb 580-304-9440

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 14

Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM and 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM and also on Saturday, June 15 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

JUNE 14-16

Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-choerokee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: hecksher@peoriatribe.com Website: www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website: www.tonkawatribe.com

JUNE 29, 2013

Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-6

Thunderbird Casino 26th Annual Powwow, Norman. Intertribal dancing only July 4th. All contestants must dance in Grand Entry and Intertribal dancing in full regalia and number in full display. All day events. Contact Sue Blanchard, 405-312-4621 or Leonard Longhorn, 405-481-0674.

JULY 4-7

Pawnee Indian Veterans 67th Annual Homecoming, Memorial Park in Pawnee, Okla. Run and softball tournament Sat. at 8am. Parade Sat. at Noon. For complete schedule or info call David Echohawk, 918-873-0499 or visit online pawneeindianveteransorg@gmail.com or on Facebook at Pawnee Indian Veterans Organization (Official)

JULY 2-4

Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration at Carnegie City Park, Carnegie. Witness American Indian dancing by the Kiowa Gourd Clan at the annual Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration in Carnegie. This event will feature the tribe's Sun Dance, held in the middle of summer during the longest and hottest days of the year. Visit the Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration to see gourd dancing, stunning shawls and drumming exhibitions, and celebrate Kiowa heritage at this traditional ceremony. 6am-11pm. Contact Phil Dupoint, 580-654-2300.

Put down the frybread: Indulge in moderation

■ **With the diabetes epidemic in mind, two tribes are partnering to provide fresh, healthy food for its citizens later this year, starting with their summer powwows.**

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

Frybread. Corn soup. Kanuchi. Grape dumplings. Fried baloney. Dried buffalo meat.

Where there is a powwow, there is food. Just like in the rest of society, some of it is healthy and some is not.

With Natives more than twice as likely as the rest of the population to develop diabetes, Michelle Goss, a registered dietician at the Three Rivers Clinic in Muskogee, Okla., encourages her clients to look for those

healthier options when hitting the powwow circuit and monitoring their carbohydrate intake.

“It’s not so much avoiding certain dishes as it is exercising moderation whenever possible,” she said.

Among the powwow staples that may require diabetics and dieters to exercise some restraint is frybread. Made with flour, salt, sugar and water and fried in either oil or lard, the average piece of frybread has about 25 grams of fat in it.

“We don’t want to say avoid, but limit,” Goss said. “That one (frybread) is definitely one to limit.”

Instead of loading up a plate full of hog meat, frybread and grape dumplings, healthier potential serving options include corn soup, venison, wild mushrooms and poke salad.

“With any kind of serving line, it’s all about monitoring

the portions if you have that control,” Goss said. “The thing to keep in mind as well is if there is more choice of vegetables, go for vegetable dishes if possible.”

With the diabetes epidemic in mind, two north central Oklahoma tribes are partnering to provide fresh, healthy food for its citizens later this year, starting with their summer powwows.

Based out of in White Eagle, Okla., and Red Rock,

Okla., respectively, the Ponca and Otoe-Missouria tribes have headquarters within 20 miles of each other off of US Highway 177 and have a combined enrollment of

about 7000 citizens. Most of the two tribes’ jurisdictional areas are considered to be within food deserts, with the nearest grocery store at least 10 miles away by car in Ponca City, Okla., Tonkawa, Okla., or Perry, Okla.

In March, the two tribes

received a joint grant from the Native American Young Beginning and Small Enterprise Center. Along with agricultural education programs for the tribes’ youth, the grant also funds a joint one-acre plasticulture garden. Plasticulture refers to the practice of farming with plastic materials, such as irrigation tubes, mulch film, soil fumigation film and plastic mulch.

“A joint venture like this is kind of rare and we are trying to overcome that,” said Amos Hinton, agricultural director for the Ponca Tribe. “We want to raise awareness about nutrition and healthy eating.”

“Last year, we had 30 or 40 tribal members younger than 40 die. We’ve got to change our health and our eating habits.”

Along with NAYBSEC, the tribes are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the

Agriculture Extension Office at Oklahoma State University to get the garden started. Tomato, sweet corn, okra and green beans were planted in early April with the goal of serving some of the produce at the tribes’ powwows this summer and the rest going to the tribes’ Head Start and senior nutrition programs.

“It’s documented that Otoe-Missouria people historically raised crops such as corn, squash, and beans for food sources,” Otoe-Missouria Council second member Melanie Harder said. “I am excited we are taking part in a project that will help us restore our connection to growing healthy foods. We will be able not only to produce fresh, culturally appropriate foods, but also to provide learning experiences, exercise and inter-generational interaction for all participants.”



FILE PHOTO
That delicious fry bread under your Indian Taco was fried in oil or lard and averages a hefty 25 grams of fat.



COURTESY TULSA INDIAN CLUB
Participants in the 2012 Princess Challenge line up for a group photo at race end. Autumn Only A Chief, 2012 Pawnee Nation Princess, second from right, is the reigning champion.

Race event promotes health, funds annual club powwow

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – For the ninth year, Tulsa Indian Club will kill two birds with one stone over Memorial Day weekend: promoting a healthy lifestyle and fundraising for its annual powwow.

“The powwow is a pretty large event, so fundraising and sponsorship are important,” Tulsa Indian Club member and race coordinator Robert Anquoe said. “We decided to do this a few years ago as a way to fundraise and get support for the event.”

Named for the Kiowa word for *wonderful* or “*I feel good*,” the Day-Ohn-Day 5K and 10K will start at Mohawk Park’s Shelter No. 3 at 5701 E. 36th St. North on May 25. The

proceeds will go to one of Tulsa’s oldest continuous Native American cultural events, the 61st annual Tulsa Powwow, scheduled for July 27-28 at the Tulsa County Fairgrounds.

“This is a way to promote a healthy lifestyle and offer encouragement to live that way,” Anquoe said. “It’s an opportunity to come out, walk or run and hopefully get a routine going of eating right and exercising.”

With participation increasing every year, more than 325 runners and walkers participated in last year’s Day-Ohn-Day run, making it the largest turnout in the event’s history. Last year’s race was also the first to feature a 10K.

Race pre-registration is available online at dayohnday.eventbrite.com through May 22. Participants may

also register in person May 20-24 at Runners’ World at 4329 S. Peoria Ave., or starting at 6:30 a.m. on race day. Pre-registration is \$25 for 5K and one-mile fun run participants and \$30 for 10K participants. Fees increase by \$5 for race day runners. Due to liability concerns, strollers are not allowed in any of the races.

Along with standard age divisions, the race also has a separate division for tribal and powwow royalty and will once again feature the Chief’s Challenge for tribal leaders who walk or run in one of the races. Team awards will also be presented to the tribe or organization with the most entrants.

For more info on the Tulsa Powwow, visit <http://tulsapowwow.org>

SD students seek special song at graduation

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) – Some parents and students in the Chamberlain School District in southeastern South Dakota are resurrecting an effort to persuade the school board to allow a Native American honoring song during graduation ceremonies.

Students have presented a petition to the board and board members have promised to vote on the matter before the May 19 graduation, but they have declined such requests in the past. School officials say a ceremony led by the district’s Native American Club the night before graduation honors tribal students.

Superintendent Debra Johnson told the Argus Leader newspaper that an honoring song hasn’t been allowed during graduation because the board “wanted to keep the graduation ceremony in the tradition that it has been.”

At least one-third of the students in the district are American Indian. Supporters of an honoring song during graduation say it would be culturally appropriate and might help efforts to bridge cultural and racial differences in the community.

“Yes, I think racism is at play in this decision,” said Jim Cadwell, a bilingual instructor for Crow Creek tribal schools and a parent

of three children who went through the Chamberlain district. “That comes from the last 12 years of living here. There’s a mentality here.”

Johnson said the Chamberlain district does many things to embrace and reach out to its Native American students and families, such as forming a Native American advisory group and having staff members travel to reservations to meet with parents. The district requires all students to exhibit an understanding of tribal culture in the state, she said, and the Native American club hosts a powwow.

“We really try to reach out and talk with our parents and families and provide events for them that are beneficial for them and their children,” she said.

Somewhere South Dakota school districts with large tribal populations allow honoring songs at their graduations. Bruce Carrier, superintendent at Winner the last two years and for the Lyman School District before that, said both districts have incorporated a tribal honoring song into their commencement exercises.

“I view the honor song as a song that honors all our graduates, not just our Native American graduates,” Carrier said.

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“Where every day is Indian Day”

- Inside this issue:
- Hickory Ground arrest update
 - Book precedes benefit Black Hills
 - Tribes turn to tech to save languages



NATIVE TIMES

Government watchdog questions Echo Hawk’s recognition decision

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – A government watchdog has criticized an official’s decision to grant a Central California American Indian



Larry Echo Hawk

tribe federal recognition, which gave it the right to federal benefits and a reservation where it could pursue a casino. The U.S. Department of Interior’s Office of Inspector General said in a report released April 30 that it found no discernible process followed by then-Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk to recognize the Tejon Indian Tribe in 2011 over at least one other group that had submitted a similar application.

The tribe’s headquarters are near Bakersfield. Tribal chairwoman Kathy Morgan initially said she had not yet seen the report. She did not immediately respond to a subsequent message seeking comment. The Office of Inspector General forwarded its findings to the Interior secretary for “any action deemed appropriate.” According to the report, Echo Hawk told the Office

See DECISION on Page 5



FILE

This Feb. 7, 2012, photo shows a cross on a grave at the Wounded Knee National Historic landmark in South Dakota. James Czywczynski, 74, is trying to sell a 40-acre fraction of the landmark for \$3.9 million to the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Tribe faces ultimatum on sale of massacre site

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota (AP) – Tribal members say the man who owns a piece of the Wounded Knee National Historic Landmark on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is trying to profit from their suffering, asking nearly \$5 million for two tracts of land with an assessed value of less than \$14,000. It was there, on Dec. 29, 1890, that 300 Native American men, women and children were killed by the 7th Cavalry in the final battle of the American Indian Wars. James Czywczynski, whose family has owned the property

since 1968, is trying to sell the 40-acre (16-hectare) fraction of the historic landmark and another 40-acre parcel for \$4.9 million (16-hectare). Oglala Sioux tribal president Bryan Brewer told The Associated Press that the tribe does not have the money to buy the land and that, even if it did, tribal members shouldn’t have to buy back something that is theirs. “We are hoping no one will buy this land. And I’d like to tell investors that if someone thinks they can go down there and commercialize this, it will never happen. We will not allow it,” he said. Czywczynski did not return repeated calls from The Associated Press by

Wednesday evening to see whether outside investors are now able to bid for the land. Earlier this month he told the AP he had three offers from West Coast-based investment groups interested in buying the land for the original asking price. The ultimatum has caused anger among many tribal members and descendants of the massacre victims. “I know we are at the 11th hour, but selling this massacre site and using the victims as a selling pitch is, for lack of a better word, it’s grotesque,” said Nathan Blindman, 56, whose grandfather was 10 when he survived the massacre. “To

See SALE on Page 7

‘Turn in your arms’ gun billboard draws criticism

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) – Two Colorado billboards in which images of Native Americans are used to make a gun rights argument are causing a stir with some residents who say the image is offensive and insensitive. The billboards show three men dressed in traditional Native American attire and the words “Turn in your arms. The government will take care of you.” According to the Greeley Tribune a group of local residents purchased the space and asked to remain anonymous. Greeley resident Kerri Salazar, who is of Native American descent, said she was livid when she learned about it. She said



JIM RYDBOM | GREELEY TRIBUNE

A billboard in Greeley, Colo., that bears the words, “Turn in your arms - The government will take care of you,” is upsetting some residents over the portrayal of Natives. she doesn’t have a problem with the gun rights message, but she’s offended the Native American people were singled out, apparently without their consent.



GERI HONGEVA | COURTESY NAVAJO NATION MUSEUM

Officials announce the translation of the Star Wars movie into Navajo during a press conference April 23, 2013 at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz. From left to right are: Manuelito Wheeler - Director of Navajo Nation Museum, Martin L. Begaye, Department Manager of Navajo Parks and Recreation, Knifewing and William Nakai, Navajo Linguist.

Navajo chosen for new ‘Star Wars’ dub

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – In the new translation of “Star Wars,” Darth Vader is Luke’s bizhëe. The classic 1977 film that launched a science fiction empire and revealed the force within a farm boy who battles evil has been dubbed in Japanese, French, Spanish and about a dozen other languages. Add Navajo to the list. Manuelito Wheeler, the director of the Navajo Nation Museum who reached out to Lucasfilm Ltd. with the idea, has

a very good feeling about this. He sees it as entertaining, educational and a way to preserve the Navajo language at a time when fewer tribal members are speaking it. “That’s the beauty of what we’re doing; we’re teaching Navajo language to anybody who wants to learn the Navajo language,” Wheeler said. “I find that very rewarding and somewhat ironic. We went from a country that wanted to limit our language, to the Navajo language saving our country through Code Talkers, to our language being part of a major motion picture.”

Native languages on the big screen are a rarity. Independent films and documentaries at film festivals have been in the tongue of American Indian tribes. Yet it’s far less common to see it done in mainstream movies and shown in commercial theaters. “Bambi” was dubbed in the Arapaho language, and the cartoon series “The Berenstain Bears” was translated into the Dakota and Lakota languages. “There’s a little bit of precedent but nothing like ‘Star Wars’ in the Navajo

See ‘STAR WARS’ on Page 5

Okla. Gov stays quiet on tobacco compacts

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Despite a written request from multiple tribal leaders, Oklahoma’s governor is staying quiet on how her office is handling tobacco compact negotiations with the state’s tribes. On April 23, the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas sent a letter to

Gov. Mary Fallin’s office, asking for an explanation by April 30 as to why she has not been participating in the tobacco compact negotiating process and why extending existing compacts is not an option for the more than 20 tribes whose agreements with the state expire June 30. Gov. Fallin’s general counsel, Steve Mullins, has been the state’s lead negotiator in compact

See COMPACTS on Page 2



FILE PHOTO

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and Kaw Nation Chairman Guy Munroe sign the tribe’s renewed tobacco compact March 11.

C&A election filing period begins

■ Both Cheyenne and Arapaho administrations’ election boards are seperately accepting candidacy filings and voter registration forms.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Despite the filing period opening up, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are still waiting to see whether the federal government will conduct or observe its 2013 election.

On April 30, the election commission affiliated with Leslie Wandrie-Harjo’s government received a written request from the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Concho Agency to submit operational documentation from the tribes’ previous elections. On the advice of their attorney, the commissioners are working off of copies of the original documents, which are locked up in the tribes’ complex in Concho, Okla.

“The people are demanding an answer,” Speaker Jane Nightwalker said. “I have even had some of my constituents say we should remove folks if we don’t have a fair election. We just want to settle this in a peaceful manner. We don’t want physical altercations – that’s what we want to avoid.”

As per the tribes’ constitution, the candidates’ filing period began May 1 and closes June 1. The primary election is scheduled for Oct. 8 and the general election is scheduled for Nov. 5. Along with four legislative

positions, the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are up for election this year.

Wandrie-Harjo’s government submitted a written request in January for the BIA to conduct the election. Last fall, the tribal council recognized by Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell, passed a similar resolution to ask the

for response filed last month by the Wandrie-Harjo administration -- but no timeline has been given on a ruling.

In the interim, each administration’s election commission has sent out notices that as the constitutional election board, it is accepting candidacy filings and voter registration



FILE PHOTO
Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, left, and Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell were once political allies and elected together to govern the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Department of Interior to conduct the election. A resolution to rescind that request was tabled at a special tribal council meeting March 3 in Hammon, Okla.

The constitutionally-bound tribes have been dealing with a leadership schism for more than two years. Multiple appeals on the split and its implications are pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals – including a third written request

forms. The election commission affiliated with Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration is working out of the tribes’ complex in Concho, Okla. The commission recognized by the Wandrie-Harjo administration has an office in El Reno, Okla., and a post office box in Weatherford, Okla.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration did not respond to requests for comment.

Grand jury drops charge down in Hickory Ground protest arrest

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WETUMPKA, Ala. – An Alabama grand jury found no probable cause to prosecute a Muscogee (Creek) Nation protestor for allegedly making terrorist threats against a controversial casino construction project.

Wayland Gray and three other men were arrested Feb. 15 near the Wind Creek Casino in Wetumpka, Ala., for trespassing after they tried to conduct a prayer service for their ancestors once buried there.

Expansion efforts at the casino overlap with Hickory Ground, a pre-removal burial ground and sacred site for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, headquartered in Okmulgee, Okla. The \$246 million casino construction project has unearthed 57 sets of human remains,

prompting a federal lawsuit from the Oklahoma tribe and protests from its citizens.

Poarch Band officials levied an additional felony complaint of making terrorist threats against Gray after he promised to return to the site “to pray for his ancestors once the casino was torn down.”

The May 1 grand jury decision calls for the charge to be dropped down to disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, and sent to the Elmore County, Ala., District Court.

A hearing is scheduled for May 14 to address the trespassing charges pending against the four men.

Last month, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ Tribal Council voted to permanently ban Gray and the other three men from all Poarch Band property, including its three casinos and offices in Atmore, Ala.



FILE PHOTO
Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Wayland Gray was arrested in Wetumpka, Ala., on charges of trespassing and uttering an alleged terrorist threat when he tried to lead a prayer service at a pre-removal burial ground and current construction site.

Haskell education college nationally accredited

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) – Haskell Indian Nations University says its School of Education has received national accreditation.

The school in Lawrence says the National Council of Teacher Education recently accredited the education school after an on-campus visit last fall.

6News Lawrence reports Haskell is the first tribal college in the United States to receive this type of accreditation.

Jacqueline Boyd, chairwoman of the School of Education, says the school passed five of six standards involved in the accreditation. The sixth standard is in the area of assessment standards.

The national council’s accreditation team will visit the campus in the fall of 2014 to address the area of assessment standards. The School of Education will have to renew the national accreditation every seven years.

Choctaw Casino expands Pocola site

POCOLA, Okla. (AP) – The Choctaw Casino Hotel on the Oklahoma-Arkansas border has expanded to include a hotel with luxury suites, a new restaurant and live entertainment.

The new facilities are to open on Wednesday, and a formal opening ceremony will be held in May.

The casino opened in 1994 in a strip mall and has

had several expansions. The Southwest Times Record reports that Choctaw Nation gaming executive director Janie Dillard said the facility will have about 1,000 employees. That’s double the workers it had before the expansion.

The casino is also adding a 600-space parking deck.

COMPACTS

Continued from Page 1

talks.

Sac and Fox Principal Chief and UINOKT Chairman George Thurman confirmed via email that the organization did not receive a response by the deadline and would determine its next action at its May meeting. The organization counts more than 30 tribal governments among its members.

To date, only two tribes, the Kaw Nation and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, have signed new compacts this year, both of which take effect July 1. Neither new compact includes most favored nation clauses nor border tax rates, which the governor’s office has publicly come out against. Several tribal leaders have publicly spoken against the terms of those

compacts, including a provision that calls for the state to receive half of the tax revenue from the tribes’ tobacco sales.

The organization has also asked that the state confine discussions to tobacco compacts only. Both the Kaw Nation and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes signed burn ban agreements with their tobacco compacts earlier this year. Gov. Fallin’s office has maintained that it did not initiate those discussions, contrary to comments by leaders from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, who negotiated a tobacco compact last year.

Gov. Fallin’s office did not respond to requests for comment.



COURTESY NATE MAAS
The Jim Thorpe Memorial in Jim Thorpe, Penn.

Jim Thorpe town residents mull options from lawsuit

JIM THORPE, Pa. (AP) – Residents of Jim Thorpe are weighing their options in the aftermath of a judge’s ruling that could pave the way for the remains of the town’s namesake to return to Oklahoma.

Last month, a federal judge sided with Thorpe’s sons in a lawsuit over whether they could transport the legendary Native American athlete’s remains back to his home state.

Jim Thorpe officials met

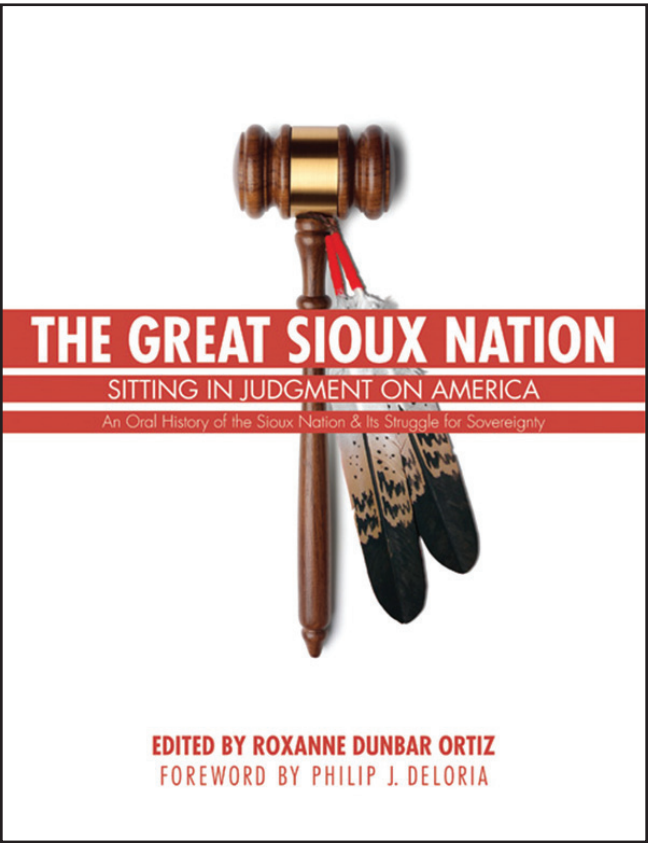
with residents Wednesday night to explain the ruling means and discuss options, which would be to comply with the decision or file an appeal.

WNEP-TV reports many residents said the borough

shouldn’t spend any more money on the issue. They say Thorpe’s family should cover the costs if the body is removed.

The borough solicitor has asked the local council to decide by May 10.

Activist, author addresses standing room only crowd at University of Tulsa



“I was surrounded by Vine Deloria and Lakota elders who told me I’d have the ‘privilege’ of converting the court transcripts into a book.”
— Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

■ Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz’s book, “The Great Sioux Nation” has been re-released in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Wounded Knee. The book stems from her time with AIM during the standoff in 1973 and its aftermath.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Author and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz brought a slice of the American Indian Movement to the University of Tulsa last week. Through a partnership with the University of Tulsa and the Tulsa City-County Library System, Dunbar-Ortiz spoke to a standing room only crowd April 29 at TU’s Chapman Hall. Her first book, “The Great Sioux Nation: An Oral History of the Sioux Nation and its Struggle for Sovereignty,” was published in 1977 and was later presented as a fundamental document at the first international conference on Indians of the Americas, held at the United Nations’ headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. “Going to the UN was somewhat controversial,” she said. “Some of the elders thought it was rash, but it needed to be done.” The book stems from her time with AIM during the Wounded Knee standoff in 1973 and its aftermath. Dunbar-Ortiz was among

those called to testify during the December 1974 hearing on whether the United States government had jurisdiction over actions committed on Sioux land. “It was packed in the courtroom,” she said. “There wasn’t a jury, so we filled the jury box with elders. There was an encampment outside the courthouse with at least 4,000 people. “I was surrounded by Vine Deloria and Lakota elders who told me I’d have the ‘privilege’ of converting the court transcripts into a book.” In conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Wounded Knee, Dunbar-Ortiz’ publisher, University of Nebraska press, is re-releasing her book with a new forward, along with a new edition of the autobiography of the judge who heard the case Dunbar-Ortiz’s book is primarily based on. All royalties from the sale of the new edition of “The Great Sioux Nation” will go to the Defenders of the Black Hills, a non-profit organization based out of Rapid City, S.D., that works to ensure all the provisions of the Fort Laramie treaties of 1851 and 1868 are upheld by the federal government. The treaties guaranteed the Black Hills in perpetuity to the Sioux Nation and were the subject of the 1980 Supreme Court decision United States v. Sioux Nation of Indians, which awarded several million dollars to the tribe. To date, the Sioux Nation has refused to take the money on the grounds it would terminate its claim to the property. “They’re not exactly an organization that can go get foundation money or federal grant dollars,” she said.

Arkansas Post site has Quapaw ties

SARAH MORRIS
Stuttgart Daily Leader

ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL, Ark. (AP) – Nestled deep into southern Arkansas County, Arkansas Post National Memorial’s Osotouy unit covers approximately 400 acres just north of where Henri de Tonti established the “Poste de Arkansae” trading post at the Quapaw village of Osotouy. The 1686 trading post was the first semi-permanent French settlement in the lower Mississippi River Valley, although 327 years later the area is sparsely populated. Today, some of the only visible remains are the Menard-Hodges Mounds, a grouping of nine known mounds that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 1989. Arkansas Post officials are now hoping to reconnect Arkansas with the site. Superintendent Ed Wood said they are working to develop a plan of action to interpret the unit to the public. The plan includes a visitor’s center contact station, a Quapaw medicinal garden and various viewing stations overlooking the mounds, the former trading post area and Lake Dumond. Park Ranger Kirby McCallie said the plans are nearly 95 percent complete with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission still needing to review it. Public meetings are tentatively scheduled for July to receive any concerns, suggestions or public input, the Stuttgart Daily Leader reported. So far, the work has been a joint effort between area landowners, Arkansas Post, the Arkansas Archaeological Society, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, also known as O-GAH-PAH, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, the project is still in the initial stages. Wood said it could be years

before the project is started as well as completed. “What we want is to have the people of Arkansas know the significance of the area, what went on there and how it is related to the establishment of Arkansas,” Wood said. The Osotouy unit has Menard-Hodges Mounds covering 40 acres while the rest is taken up with Menard Bayou, Lake Dumond, abandoned agricultural fields and hardwood forests. Its significance is in its Native American history. “Quapaw believe it is their ancestral homeland,” McCallie said. “Some of the mounds are burial mounds so when the Quapaw visit Osotouy, they have a very spiritual connection to the area and the mounds.” According to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the mounds’ occupation span was between 1540-1700, and the area is known for being in the vicinity of the first Arkansas Post. The U.S. National Park Service notes that the post’s establishment “was the first step in a long struggle between France, Spain and England for dominance of the Mississippi River Valley.” The Post, which relocated due to flooding several times, held strategic importance over the decades for French, Spanish, American and Confederate military. It also hosted the 1783 Colbert Raid, the only Revolutionary War fight in Arkansas, and was the first capital of Arkansas. The Osotouy unit is also “the largest known civic-ceremonial site of the Mississippian culture along the lower Arkansas river, and also contains a 19th Century French vernacular house and evidence of 17th and 18th European settlement.” It is presently gated against motor vehicle traffic, although Wood said visitors could walk onto it now to view the mounds. Local residents already walk the area daily.

NB3 Foundation brings ‘Indian style’ soccer to Norman

STAFF REPORTS

NORMAN, Okla. – “Indian style” soccer recently came to Oklahoma with a little help from the Notah Begay III Foundation. The foundation partnered with the University of Oklahoma women’s soccer program to bring a day of soccer clinics and wellness education to American Indian kids from across the state. Stephanie Gabbert, NB3F Director of Soccer, said she was extremely happy with the large turnout and the enthusiasm shown by the participants. More than 100 kids, representing more than 30 tribes, laced up their cleats and took to the soccer field last month. “These clinics help expose Native children to soccer and basic soccer techniques while also teaching age appropriate health and nutrition education and providing healthy snacks. We were so well received that we certainly are looking to return in the near future,” Gabbert said. Many parents commented that this was such an inspiring event because it was the first time they had seen so many tribes together participating in the sport of soccer. NB3F representatives expressed their hopes that this event can be a springboard for future events in Oklahoma. The goal is

to continue to expose Native children to the benefits of physical activity and to teach positive health and nutrition education principles that will empower them to make healthy choices that can combat the epidemics of obesity and Type II Diabetes in Indian Country. Oklahoma is fast becoming a focal point of soccer in Indian Country as top level players and coaches home grown in the Red Earth state are beginning to emerge nationally, including Major League Soccer Most Valuable Player and member of the San Jose Earthquakes Chris “Wondo” Wondolowski (Kiowa); Carnegie Mellon University Head Men’s Soccer Coach Arron Lujan (Kiowa); Oklahoma Christian University soccer standout Brandon Little Axe (Absentee Shawnee), and former professional soccer player and head college coach Boyna Bear (Osage). “There is only one American Indian professional soccer player (Chris Wondolowski) that I am aware of,” said one parent attending the camp. “The fact that he is the top professional soccer player in the United States should be of no surprise to our people. He is an inspiration to our family and even more so to our daughter who you see playing over there. Maybe someday she will be one of the OU players out here giving back to Indian Country.”

Cherokee Nation Councilwoman runs for re-election

Councilwoman Meredith Frailey represents District 15, Mayes/Rogers Counties. Elected as the Nation’s first ever Speaker of the Tribal Council, Frailey also served as the Rules Committee Chairperson. One-half Cherokee, Frailey is the daughter of the late Susie Swimmer, a traditional full blood Cherokee. Frailey holds a Bachelor of Science from Northeastern State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa Law School and is a licensed airplane pilot. Experience spans manufacturing, energy, banking business services, education and non-profit industries. Held positions of Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director of YMCA, marketing director, women’s athletic coach, and served on local, state and federal boards and task forces. Serving many years, she was recently appointed to the Iron Gate Board, a non-profit service

organization that feeds the hungry, one third of which are homeless Native Americans. She considers it an honor to have been a part of a team that over the last decade grew Cherokee Nation assets from \$334 million to \$1.2 billion, and Health care services from \$48 million to \$225 million. Running for re-election was founded on her belief that now more than ever experienced leadership with a single-minded focus toward handling major challenges facing Cherokee people are needed on the Tribal Council. Funding to retain and recruit more doctors and nurses is critical to meeting the needs of Cherokee people. She will focus on an increase in funding for Vocational Education and Specialized Training initiatives for businesses and health careers, strengthen the Elders in Need program, continue her work to retain and bring jobs to her district, and advocate



Meredith Frailey

overhauling theTERO bid process that will better support Cherokee business owners. Councilwoman Frailey added, “I will continue to steadfastly hold tribal government accountable, protect our fragile tribal sovereignty and remain an independent voice on the Council for all Cherokee people.”

NATIVE
American
TIMES



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Tribes turn to tech to save endangered languages

MICHELLE RINDELS
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) – In a windowless conference room in a Las Vegas casino, about three dozen people are swishing their fingers across iPads, trying out test versions of new apps and screening for glitches.

But these are no Silicon Valley techies in town for one of the city's massive electronics shows. Many are from far-flung American Indian reservations, and their high-tech devices are serving a decidedly old-school purpose: trying to save their languages from the brink of extinction.

Experts say a growing number of tribes are trying to revitalize their languages, which in some cases are spoken by only a small handful of people. And increasingly, they're enlisting technology in the effort.

"We're in a race against time," said Lewis "Bleu" St. Cyr, 26, who attended the February workshop to scope out the possibility of developing a language learning app for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. "The goal is for younger kids to get interested."

Linguists estimate about 200 Native American languages are spoken in the U.S. and Canada, with another 100 already extinct. In the early 1990s, experts estimated only 11 percent of tribal languages were still being passed traditionally from parents to children. The bulk of the surviving languages were spoken only by tribal members who were middle-aged or older.

Today, most tribes across the country are making some type of effort toward a language comeback, according to Leanne Hinton, a Berkeley linguistics professor and board member of the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival.

Those efforts include everything from apprenticeship programs that pair a fluent elder with a student, to immersion school programs. Many also incorporate technology such as YouTube videos of native speakers or Google Hangout video chats for live, long-distance conversations.

St. Cyr, who serves as media specialist for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's Ho-Chunk Renaissance Program, says he's always on the lookout for creative ways to bring the Ho-Chunk language back to life. So far, he's worked up a language quiz game based on the show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and has been using Facebook and YouTube videos to get young people engaged.

"The world is moving so fast with technology, and our youth are the ones who are going to carry the language on," he said. "I think it's received pretty well."

The Ho-Chunk language-learning app is the latest idea he's brought to the table. If tribal leaders give the OK, the tool could be circulated among the approximately

of travel, company employees will fly out to a tribe, record native speakers, and program the language into a 500-word or phrase app in about four days. They also can incorporate traditional songs and historical photographs.

While many tribes seem to be embracing the technology, the response wasn't always

we caution is that these are purely tools, and they do not substitute for a person's willpower and discipline to study and learn the language."

Slaughter, whose organization holds seminars on tribal language education and researches best practices for teachers, said she's witnessed a wave of interest in language renewal over the past two

development program and owns the WinnaVegas casino in Sloan, Iowa.

"There are definitely things you can do if you have more money," Hinton said. "But I also see tribes with plenty of money that don't do anything about language."

The most important ingredient, experts say, is willpower, and a love



PHOTO COURTESY THORNTON MEDIA

A Thornton Media employee demonstrates in a YouTube video the process of recording a native speaker prior to programming the language into a 500-word or phrase app in about four days.

2,600 tribal members who live on the reservation, as well as those who have moved away.

Such apps are advantageous because they use technology that most young people already are well-acquainted with, said Don Thornton, whose Las Vegas-based tech company staged the February workshop.

Thornton Media is recognized as a leader in the tech side of indigenous language revitalization, developing translation devices, talking toys programmed in native languages and other tools over its 17-year lifespan. But Thornton says the biggest success has been custom apps for iPads and iPhones.

"It's the most flexible," he said. "Distribution is unlimited."

Since their first app teaching Cherokee came out in the iTunes store in 2009, Thornton says he and his wife have worked with 170 different tribes, representing 70 or 80 languages.

For about \$22,000 plus the cost

enthusiastic.

"When we started out, there was hesitance to use technology," Thornton said. "Sometimes people said it was the wrong way to go, that we should go straight through elders."

The company's next goal is to develop a video game that would require players to use a native language to survive in a virtual world. The first edition would be in Cherokee, which the Census Bureau estimates is spoken by about 12,000 people ages 5 and up.

Language revitalization advocates say they applaud the new technology, but note it's just one part of broader efforts that could include mentorship, classes and a community commitment to using tribal languages in daily life.

"It can be a very powerful tool in helping revive or revitalize endangered languages," said Inee Slaughter, executive director of the Indigenous Language Institute based in Santa Fe, N.M. "What

decades.

"It's gaining momentum very, very quickly," Slaughter said of the movement. "It's growing, and it's very encouraging."

Experts point to the early- to mid-1970s as the effort's start, and say it got a boost when the Native American Languages Act, passed in 1990, declared the U.S. was committed to ensuring the languages' survival. Federal funding for revitalization projects was added in 1992, allowing tribes to apply for competitive grants.

Money can help speed up the efforts, allowing tribes to hire language teachers or pay for apps. The Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians in California uses funds from its casino to pay for Luiseno language courses at nearby California State University, San Bernardino.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, with its robust Ho-Chunk Renaissance program, also runs an award-winning economic

for the language.

Louise Davis, who lives in northern California, is almost tearful when she describes hearing people using the language of her Pit River tribe in conversation for the first time. It happened years ago when an older man from another part of the state met up with her grandmother.

It was such a powerful, emotional experience that Davis is driven to use flashcards at home with her children and do whatever it takes to preserve the language.

"You can say things in our language that you can't say in English," she said.

Testing out a language app in February, she said she couldn't wait to see it being used among young people in the tribe.

"To know your native language connects you to your community and your history," Slaughter said. "In the long run you are helping your community ... retain that cultural identity."

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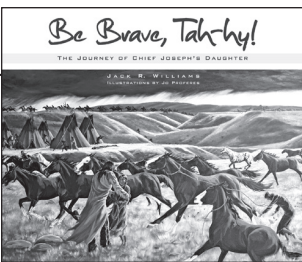
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Choctaw language class celebrates a year of success

■ Currently, Choctaw language classes are available in 32 high schools with approximately 700 students enrolled.

BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

DURANT, Okla. – High school students from across the Choctaw Nation traveled to the Event Center in Durant on May 1 to attend the annual Language Finale, an event held to acknowledge the accomplishments of students enrolled in the Choctaw School of Language. The event was a fun gathering of students laced with cultural activities, presentations and words of encouragement.

Choctaw singer Brad Joe initiated the proceedings when he sang the Lord's Prayer, completely in the Choctaw language, as Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray interpreted in sign language. The Coalgate Community Language Class then sang the National Anthem in Choctaw following the posting of the colors by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

Other presentations from students included a reading of Choctaw Hymn 48, "Prayer To The Holy Spirit" by a trio from Colbert High School, and an action skit of "Bigfoot Returns," presented by Broken Bow students. As

they appeared on stage, all students spoke entirely in Choctaw, demonstrating their growing skills in the enduring language of their ancestors.

"I appreciate everyone that made the event possible. The staff for their contributions, and the students for all of their hard work during the year,"

stated Director of Choctaw Language Department Jim Parrish.

Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and tribal council members were in

attendance to display their support for the efforts of the Choctaw youth. Pyle and Batton addressed the audience, exhorting their appreciation for the efforts set forth by the students to learn the language of their people.

Parrish then recognized language teachers Eleanor Caldwell and Charles Hines for their services to the Choctaw language efforts by presenting them each with a certificate of appreciation. "They have both been a great asset to the department and strong contributors to the spreading of the Choctaw language," stated Parrish.

Following the conclusion of the onstage presentations, Choctaw traditional dancers then took the attention of the crowd, first demonstrating dances and then involving the students in the act. During the Stealing Partners Dance, many members of the audience were "stolen," and encouraged to dance.

Pizza and drinks were provided proceeding the dancing, allowing students and faculty to fellowship with other schools offering the Choctaw language courses. Door prizes were also given during the occasion, adding to the excitement of the day.

Currently, Choctaw language classes are available in 32 high schools with approximately 700 students enrolled. If you would like to know more about Choctaw language education, visit choctawschool.com or call 800.522.6170 x2250



Eleanor Caldwell receives her certificate of appreciation from Jim Parrish and Hannah Bryan.



PHOTOS COURTESY CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Students from Broken Bow present the skit, "Big Foot Returns," while speaking completely in Choctaw.

'STAR WARS'

Continued from Page 1

language," said Michael Smith, director of the American Indian Film Institute and a member of the Sioux Tribe of Montana.

A team of five Navajo speakers spent 36 hours translating the script for "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope," and now they're looking for fluent Navajo speakers to fill some two dozen roles. Casting calls were scheduled in Burbank, Calif., and May 3 and 4 – the unofficial "Star Wars" holiday – at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz.

Potential actors shouldn't worry if they don't sound exactly like Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker or Han Solo, only that they have Princess Leia's spunk and fire or Han Solo's daring, bad-boy-next-door attitude. Chewbacca and R2D2 will keep the language they speak in the Navajo version, and technical effects will be

applied to Darth Vader and C-3PO so they sound like the originals, said Shana Priesz, senior director of localization for Deluxe, the studio overseeing the dubbing.

"Having the voice match isn't as much as I want someone who can deliver the lines," she said.

Wheeler and William Nakai, one of the translators, declined to say how some catch phrases or sci-fi jargon in the movie might carry over into Navajo. But Laura Tohe, a fluent Navajo speaker and English professor at Arizona State University said the translation process could have been similar to what Navajo Code Talkers did in coming up with communication that confounded the Japanese during World War II.

The Code Talkers recruited from the Navajo Nation were unfamiliar with things like grenades, observation planes, tanks and dive-bombers. So they thought of something on the reservation that had similar qualities. Grenades became potatoes, observation

planes became owls, tanks became tortoises and so on.

"May the force be with you," might translate into "may you walk with great power," or "may you have the power within you," she said. It also might include a reference to mountains, which are a source of strength for the Navajo people.

Galaxies, stars and outer space are not far off concepts for Navajos, who sometimes base ceremonies on moon phases and constellations, Tohe said. Those words would translate directly.

"The Navajo people, like all indigenous tribes, were very observant of not only the world around them but the stars and constellations," she said. "I associate that with science fiction in a lot of ways. I think they would be well aware of it in "Star Wars," it takes place up in the heavens."

The first opportunity to see the film in Navajo will be during the tribe's Fourth of July activities in Window Rock and later in the year

during the Navajo Nation Fair. Wheeler said he then plans to take it on tour across the reservation, which stretches into New Mexico, Utah and Arizona, and metropolitan areas with large Navajo populations at no cost to viewers. The Navajo Parks and Recreation Department is funding the project but wouldn't say how much it costs.

Anyone who doesn't understand Navajo can read English subtitles on the film as another tool to learn the language, Priesz said. More people – nearly 170,000 – speak Navajo at home than any other American Indian language, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, but it is being lost upon younger generations.

"You could have a grandmother that speaks Navajo, and she understands it but is sitting there with her grandson who doesn't speak Navajo," Priesz said. "He could be reading it, so they both can enjoy it."

DECISION

Continued from Page 1

of Inspector General that the tribe previously had been recognized by the U.S. government, but did not appear on a list of federally recognized tribes because of an administrative error.

Echo Hawk said he had the legal authority to reaffirm the tribe and was not required to go through the official administrative process for recognition.

"When asked about the process he followed or criteria he considered in making the Tejon decision, Echo Hawk said he did not get deeply involved in the details of the decision," the report said.

His chief of staff, Paul Tsosie, however, said officials had reviewed documents and determined there had been a negotiated treaty that established a federal relationship with the tribe, the report said.

Echo Hawk said he was aware of one other tribe with a request similar to Tejon's and chose Tejon because the tribe had "pressed their issue forward."

According to the report, Tsosie made similar comments, acknowledging he had been influenced by the number of telephone calls he received from members of the tribe and saying: "This was one of the tribes that was calling me off the hook. So I was, like, saying: 'Just give them an answer.'"

The roughly 400-member Tejon tribe had applied for reaffirmation with help from Cannery Row Casino resorts of Las Vegas, which provided money the tribe used to hire a legal representative to assist with the process, according to the report. The federal government's list of recognized tribes stands at more than 550 tribes.

The report also accused Echo Hawk of failing to consult with other federal officials, leaving Indian groups with historical, genealogical, and ancestral claims to the original Tejon Indians out of the process and creating budgeting difficulties in meeting the required services for the Tejon.

Echo Hawk resigned from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs last year.

A spokeswoman for the agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

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COMMENTARY ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Stopping the Keystone pipeline: The battle of our time



DR SARA JUMPING EAGLE

On January 25, 2013, the Ihanktonwan Dakota and the Pawnee Nation signed a formal Treaty by which both Nations and another 131 supporting Native Nations dedicated themselves to resisting the Keystone pipeline.

This Treaty honored the memory of another Peace Treaty signed between these two Nations (which had formerly been enemies) exactly 150 years ago, January 23, 1863. The remaining bands of the Oceti Sakowin, the Great Sioux Nation, in addition to other Canadian First Nations, and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska plan on joining the fight to resist the Keystone XL pipeline as well.

The Ihanktonwan Representative Faith Spotted Eagle and the group Protect the Sacred has a video link explaining this historical event and treaty here: <http://www.protectthesacred.org/>.

On February 17 and 18, 2013 the Black Hills Sioux Nation Treaty Council passed a resolution to express the Intent of the Oceti Sakowin not to allow Keystone XL onto Oceti Sakowin lands. The Treaty Council stated to President Obama the negative environmental impact the Keystone pipeline will have on the water of our lands. This resolution, reaffirms the Treaty Council's previous resolution from one year prior which stated, "The Great Sioux Nation hereby directs President Barack Obama and the United States Congress to honor the promises of the United States made through the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie treaties by prohibiting the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline and any future projects from entering and destroying our land without our consent."

The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council under the Yellow Bird-Steele/Poor Bear Administration and under the current Brewer/Poor Bear OST Tribal Administration

has also passed resolutions supporting the Treaty Council's commitment to oppose the Keystone Pipeline. President Brewer and Vice President Poor Bear have participated in the grass roots movement Owe Aku (Take Back the Way) "Moccasins on the Ground" resistance training in order to prepare for the possibility of the Keystone pipeline attempt to encroach on Oceti Sakowin lands and/or to threaten the Ogallala aquifer.

"We know that without drinking water on the Pine Ridge, it is genocide for our people, our Nation. We are working as best we can to stop the tar sands oil pipeline from entering our territory," said Debra White Plume, founder of Owe Aku. The pipeline would also cross Mni Wiconi, the water line that brings water from the middle of the state of South Dakota to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

On April 17, 2013 many people traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska to give their comments in person to representatives to the United States State Department regarding TransCanada's proposed additional pipeline, Keystone XL. Representatives of several

tribal Nations traveled to Grand Island to have their and our voices heard. Faith Spotted Eagle and Armando Iron Elk, Sr., traveled as representatives of the Ihanktonwan Delegation, to defend the Sacred Water and stop the pipeline from encroaching on our treaty lands as is our sovereign right.

They described in their statements the fact that consultation on our own Oceti Sakowin lands had not occurred, the consultation process is entirely flawed, encroachment of the pipeline onto Oceti Sakowin lands would be deemed as illegal and breaking the 1851 and 1868 treaties, and the Ihanktonwan expressed dismay at the treatment the Tribes have received in not receiving the same signatory status as states and being relegated to "concurring parties" when we are deemed sovereign nations.

Faith Spotted Eagle stated that there were over 8,000 acres of un-surveyed lands which contain sacred places and endangered plants and animals that had not been evaluated as of yet.

(If you would like to watch video of the event you can see it on the following link thanks to "net: Nebraska's

PBS and NPR stations": <http://www.netnebraska.org/interactive-multimedia/television/keystone-xl-pipeline-hearing-grand-island-ne-part-1>)

I listened to the Grand Island event live streaming on my phone, as I drove to work. As I pulled into the parking lot, in Bismarck, North Dakota, I got chills as I listened to Ihanktonwan Dakota delegate Faith Spotted Eagle describe the historic treaty that had been signed in January.

This treaty between sovereign nations of the Ihanktonwan Dakota and the Ponca Nation, (and 131 supporting tribes) reaffirming the Peace Treaty they had signed 150 years earlier, yet also setting a new path. This new path included the determination for all joined Tribal Nations to fight against the Keystone XL Pipeline, to protect our water, and prevent another attempt by the US government and Canada at land encroachment and resource destruction.

I got chills because in Armando Iron Elk Sr. and Faith Spotted Eagle's words, I could feel the strength of who we are, who our grandparents are – we are standing up for what is right

– for what should be – and that cannot be tainted by oil.

This is the struggle of our time. In our parents time there were other battles to fight, for civil rights, for fishing rights, the fight to survive - THIS IS OUR BATTLE OF OUR TIME - to protect the water for future generations. Where will you be when everything is happening? Will you stand by and watch it happen on Facebook? Will you let it pass you by? Or will you be a warrior and protect Grandmother Earth?

We must let our tribal leaders know, that they should not be bought for a few jobs in the short-term, when their role is to make decisions based on what is best for next seven generations. That is what we expect of them. We must continue to protect the land, the water, the air, the animals.....The Ogallala aquifer is worth more than any money. Our children and grandchildren cannot drink oil.

Dr. Sara Jumping Eagle, Oglala Lakota, Mdewakantonwan Dakota, and a resident of the Northern Plains, UnciMaka

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com (preferred) or mailed to PO Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification. Please keep your letter under 300 words and maintain a civil tone. Letters will be published as space is available.



EVENTS ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from

8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrc.org

MAY 11
GrayHorse War Mothers Soldier Dance. Contact: Mary Elsberry mcelsberry@hotmail.com Flag Raising at 1:30 War Dances at 7:30

11th Anniversary Dance For Mr. and Mrs. Jasper and Lavina Clark at Wah[^]Zha[^]Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main Pawhuska. Starts at 1:30, supper at 5 p.m. 6:30 round dance; 7:00 p.m. Gourd Dance for more information call Jasper Clark 918/948/5936 roubedeauxoney@aol.com

MAY 14
Comanche Nation Women's Wellness Seminar, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Great Plains Technology Center, Room 301, 4500 Lee Blvd., Lawton. There will be free health screenings, motivational speakers, demonstrations, and a continental breakfast and lunch. The event is free and open to the public.

MAY 18
2011-2012 Osage Princess, Dora Josephine Williams, Honor Dance, sponsored by the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, at the Pawhuska Fairgrounds Building, Pawhuska, OK. Info call 918-885-2976.

Classical Native Stars benefit concert for the Five Civilized Tribes Museum at Bacone College Chapel, Muskogee, Okla. \$18 advance tickets, \$20 at the door. Performances by Barbara McAlister; JJ Hudson, Rebecca Mann with Timothy Long as pianist. More info call the museum 918-683-1701.

The Chokka Kilimpi department within the Youth and Family Division of The Chickasaw Nation is sponsoring a 5K Run, participants wanted. For more information, contact Sallie Wallace at (580) 221-3775.

MAY 24, 25 & 26
49th Annual Delaware Pow Wow Fred Fall-Leaf Memorial Pow Wow Grounds, 401050 W. 600 Road, Copan, OK 74022 For more information, call Elaine Clinton at 918/531-2526 or e-mail clintonj88@yahoo.com.

MAY 25
All Nations Frybread Showdown Contest, 11 a.m. at 1400 Craddock Road, Ada (at old K-Mart parking lot). Public invited. Entry fee is \$20 per person, \$5 per vote for the people's favorite choice award. First place winner prize receives a double propane grill. An all-you-can-eat frybread contest will also be held. Also available, face painting, a moon bounce, clowns, a cake walk, turtle race and concession stand. For more info, contact Couita Nucosee at 580.320.6179 or couita@wildblue.net.

MAY 25-26
Annual for the People Powwow, Boone County Fairgrounds, Columbia, MO. Admission \$3 adults, School Age \$1, Elders &

Preschool FREE. More info call 816-679-0695 or donamckinney@swbell.net.

MAY 29 – JUNE 2
Battle on the Hardwood All-Indian 7th/8th & High School Basketball Tournament. Entry deadline May 13. More info call 918-652-5405, lvme4@yahoo.com or www.dogsoldiers4jesuschrist.org

MAY 30-JUNE 1
Miami Nation Tribal Powwow, NEO College Arena, Miami, OK. Free event. Gourd Dancing, shell shaker contest, color guard presentation with the Grand Entry. Food and merchandise vendors on hand. For more information: 918-542-1445.

MAY 31
Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 1
Birthday Dance honoring Henry A Lieb, Jr. at Ponca Tribe Cultural Center, White Eagle, Okla. War dance at 2pm; Meal at 5pm; Soldier Dance at 6:30pm and Gourd Dance at 7pm. Special contests! For more info call Kinsel Lieb 580-304-9440

Seneca Indian School Reunion, Wyandotte Tribal Office Title VI Cafeteria

JUNE 3
Charity Golf Tourney for The Right Path, providing therapeutic horseback riding and cart driving for special needs children.

Donations tax deductible. Single player \$80, Foursome \$320. Registration begins at 11:15 am, Cushing Country Club. More info call 918-607-5796 or rightpathacademy@sbcglobal.net

JUNE 8
Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 8
Locust Grove Class of 1988 Reunion. Potluck lunch, noon at Snowdale State Park Pavillion, Salina, Okla. and 6pm dinner at Cherokee Casino West Siloam Springs. All classmates, family and friends welcome. For more info, call Lisa Hicks, (918) 708-5838 or email LGclassof88@gmail.com.

JUNE 14-15
Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For times and more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

JUNE 14-16
Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-cherokee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

JUNE 15
18th annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Games at OWU in Bartlesville. The girls game begins at 6 pm and the boys follow at around 8pm. For more information contact Sharon Lee or Laryn Bierig at 918.642.3162

SALE

Continued from Page 1

use the murdered children, the murdered teenagers, the unborn, women screaming and running for their lives, using that as a selling pitch ... that has got to be the most barbaric thing ever to use as a selling pitch.”

The seller acknowledges the historical significance adds value to each parcel of land, which have each been appraised at less than \$7,000 apiece, according to records reviewed by the AP.

Besides its proximity to the burial grounds, the land includes the site of a former trading post burned down during the 1973 Wounded Knee uprising, in which hundreds of American Indian Movement protesters occupied the town built at the massacre site. The 71-day standoff that left two tribal members dead and a federal agent seriously wounded is credited with raising awareness about Native American struggles and giving rise to a wider protest movement that lasted the rest of the decade.

The land sits on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe, but many of the descendants of the massacre victims and survivors are members of several different Lakota tribes, said Joseph Brings Plenty, a former chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a traditional chief.

Brings Plenty said the tribes are not in a position to pay millions of dollars for the land. Although tribal members are not opposed to development that would preserve, beautify or better educate the public about the land and its history, they are opposed to commercialization, he said. “You don’t go and dance on grandma and grandpa’s grave to turn a hefty dollar sign,” he said.

Tribal members and descendants have reached out to President Barack Obama to make the site a National Monument, which would better guard it against development and commercialization, Brings Plenty said.

But even if an outside investor buys the land with intent to develop, there will be obstacles, said Craig Dillon, an Oglala Sioux Tribal Council member. The tribe could pass new laws preventing the buyer from actually building at the site.

“Whoever buys that is still going to have to deal with the tribe,” Dillon said. “Access is going to be an issue. Development is going to be an issue. I’m not threatening anybody, but my tone is be aware you have to deal with the tribe if you purchase it.”

There are nearly 2,500 national historic landmarks across the country, with the vast majority of them owned by private landowners, said Don Stevens, chief of the History and National Register Program in the Midwest Region for the National Park Service.

“We advocate for preservation and we always express concern about potential harm for their care,” Stevens said, adding that the NPS does not have any legal authority.

Still, a site can lose its designation if it does not retain its physical integrity, he said. One example is Soldier Field in Chicago, which lost the designation when it was remodeled a decade ago because it changed its physical character.

As for the Wounded Knee site, Stevens said any development could potentially affect the Historic Landmark designation.

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University of Oklahoma College of Law offers new online master’s degree in Indian law

NORMAN, OKLA. – The University of Oklahoma College of Law recently opened enrollment for its new Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law program, with classes beginning Fall 2013. The program is offered online to allow students maximum flexibility.

“Located in the heart of the original Indian Territory, OU Law is uniquely qualified with nationally and internationally renowned faculty to teach students the intricacies of Native American law and the issues concerning indigenous people,” OU Law Dean Joe Harroz said. “Indian law is a vibrant and growing field. We’re thrilled to offer this new program to students, tribal leaders and business professionals who need this legal knowledge.”

The Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law program is tailored for lawyers and non-lawyers seeking legal knowledge in this specialized area. Courses are taught by internationally recognized faculty including Lindsay Robertson and Taiawagi Helton.

“Almost half of our students

take at least one Indian law course, making it one of OU Law’s primary areas of study,” Harroz said. “Indian law is woven into the fabric of our culture, from the artwork that surrounds us, to the extensive array of courses we offer, to the annual American Indian Law Review Symposium, which has become the third largest Native American law symposium in the nation.”

Students may earn the master’s degree by successfully completing 30 units of credit over approximately four semesters of study. Students meet their peers and professors at an introductory course on campus at the beginning of the academic year, although this requirement can be waived for good cause. Students then complete the remainder of their degree plan through courses online.

To qualify for admission to the Master of Legal Studies program, applicants must have earned their bachelor’s degree prior to the first day of class and have strong letters of recommendation, as well as leadership potential. The Master of Legal Studies Admissions Committee operates under a rolling admission process, and admissions

may continue until the start of classes. However, applicants are urged to submit their application and supporting documents online at www.law.ou.edu/mls as soon as possible to receive priority review for August enrollment.

The Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law will be guided by an advisory board including:

- Mita Banerjee, director of the Center for Comparative Native and Indigenous Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germany
- Curtis Berkey, partner, Berkey Williams LLP, and staff attorney at the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, D.C. from 1979-1990
- Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw tribal member, US House of Representatives
- Phil Fontaine, Ojibwe tribal member, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 1997-2009 in Canada
- David Grover, Pawnee/Choctaw tribal member, staff attorney with the Native American Rights Fund
- Darwin Hill, chief of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation
- Bradford Morse, dean and

professor of law at Te Piringa Faculty of Law, the University of Waikato in New Zealand

· David Mullon, Cherokee tribal member, staff director and chief counsel, US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

· LeRoy Not Afraid, Crow tribal member, Justice of the Peace, Big Horn County, Montana

· Dinah L. Shelton, Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

· Joe Watkins, Choctaw tribal member; supervisory anthropologist and chief, Tribal Relations and American Cultures Program of the National Park Service; and director, Native American Studies program at University of Oklahoma

· Raquel Yrigoyen Fajardo, director of the International Institute on Law and Society in Peru

The program has received American Bar Association acquiescence, and is pending State Regent approval. For more information on the Master of Legal Studies programs, visit www.nativetimes.com

and click on their banner icon located just under the daily featured stories.

About University of Oklahoma College of Law

Founded in 1909, the University of Oklahoma College of Law is Oklahoma’s premier law school and the highest ranked “Best Law School” in the state by US News & World Report. OU Law is also nationally ranked as a top 15 “Best Value” law school and in the top 15 percent of “Best Law Schools” by National Jurist magazine. OU Law has small sections and class sizes that encourage a strong sense of community, accomplished faculty with international expertise and a state-of-the-art facility featuring study rooms, court rooms and classrooms equipped with the latest technology. As Oklahoma’s only public law school, OU Law is currently the academic home of more than 500 students enrolled in the Juris Doctor, Master of Laws and various dual degree programs.

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Cherokee Color Guard

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5:00PM	Supper Break
6:00PM	Gourd Dance
7:00PM	Grand Entry
11:00PM	Closing Song

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Inside this issue:

- Haskell president leaving for Okla. job
- First Native ‘Project Runway’ contestant
- Angel Goodrich reports to training camp



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 19 + ISSUE 19

MAY 17, 2013

BIA to ‘monitor’ Cheyenne Arapaho election

■ However, there is still some question as to who will be conducting the election since two separate election commissions have sent out notices to accept candidacy filings and voter registration forms.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – The Bureau of Indian Affairs will be involved in the Cheyenne and Arapaho’s upcoming election, but logistics

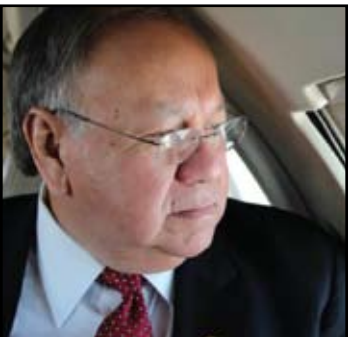
of how such a move will work are still undetermined. In a letter dated May 1 from the Department of the Interior, Deputy Bureau Director Hankie Ortiz wrote on behalf of BIA director Michael Black that the bureau would monitor the tribes’ election later this year. Tribal Councils called by each of the tribes’ factions had previously adopted resolutions requesting that the BIA conduct the 2013 election rather than the tribes’ election commission. “Although the Tribal Council has requested the BIA conduct the election, the BIA will limit its involvement to providing technical assistance

and monitoring,” Ortiz wrote. “Specifically, the BIA may offer technical advice in election procedures, serve as a monitor for the counting of ballots and assist with certification of election results.” The constitutionally-bound tribes have been dealing with a leadership schism for more than two years. Multiple appeals on the split and its implications are pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals but no timeline has been given on a ruling. Despite the BIA’s promise to monitor the election, there



FILE PHOTO
Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, left, and Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell were once political allies and elected together to govern the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Their split resulted in two separate tribal governments.

See **ELECTION** on Page 5



Chief George Tiger



Gov. Mary Fallin

Governor’s office agrees to face-to-face meeting with tribal leaders on compacts

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CATOOSA, Okla. – Gov. Mary Fallin still has not responded to a letter from more than 20 tribal officials, but a potential face-to-face meeting is on the horizon. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger announced last week at a meeting of the United Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas that his office is

facilitating a private face-to-face meeting between the leaders of Oklahoma’s 39 tribes and Gov. Fallin. The date and location are still being finalized, but the state has requested the meeting be held after the Oklahoma legislature adjourns. As per the state constitution, the legislative session must end by the Friday before Memorial Day. “It’s time we look at each other as sovereign to sovereign,”

See **COMPACTS** on Page 3

Kansas formally recognizes tribes, designates Native legislative day

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TOPEKA, Kan. – As of May 9, the Kansas state government is formally recognizing the government-to-government relationships of the tribes within its borders. Signed by Gov. Sam Brownback last Thursday, the new law also designates the first Wednesday of each February as “Native American Legislative Day at the Capitol.” The bill also changes the title of “American Indian Day” to “Native American Day” which would continue to be recognized on the fourth Saturday of September.

The bill was co-sponsored by state Rep. Ponka-We Victors (D-Wichita), who is Tohono O’odham and Ponca. She is the only Native American member of the Kansas state legislature. Despite being introduced by two Democrats in a heavily Republican legislature, the bill passed unanimously through the Senate. Kansas is home to three federally-recognized tribes: the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation, the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. “Beginning in 2014 Kansas will permanently designate the first

Wednesday in February as Native American Legislative Day at the Capitol and we have worked hard to see the bill through and are proud of what has been accomplished,” Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation Chairman Steve Ortiz said. Among the dignitaries on hand for the signing ceremony were Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians and lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, as well as National Indian Gaming Commission Chairman Ernie Stevens, a graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

Murkowski to lead GOP outreach to Natives

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaska’s senior U.S. senator has been picked to lead the National Republican Senatorial Committee’s “Native American Program.” Sen. Lisa Murkowski, in a release, said she was proud to take on leadership of the new initiative. It is aimed at improving communications between Senate Republicans and Native American voters. NRSC Chairman Jerry Moran said in a release that

he’s “thrilled” to have Murkowski involved. Murkowski serves on the Senate Indian Affairs committee, and received strong support during her 2010 re-election campaign from Alaska Natives. The NRSC backed Murkowski in the 2010 GOP primary, which she lost to Joe Miller. It then backed Miller as Murkowski mounted a write-in campaign to keep her job.

Borough votes to fight for Thorpe’s remains

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

JIM THORPE, Pa. – Council members of a small Pennsylvania borough voted unanimously Thursday night to challenge a court’s decision to move the remains of the town’s namesake. Citing financial concerns, the council voted 6-0 to file an appeal with the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concerning U.S. District Court judge A. Richard Caputo’s decision last month that the terms of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act trumped an almost 60-year-old contract between the town and Jim Thorpe’s widow, Patricia, to have the Sac and Fox athlete buried in Pennsylvania in exchange for combining and naming two small communities for Thorpe.

The decision opens the door for Thorpe’s remaining two sons and the Sac and Fox Nation to bring his remains back to Oklahoma. In his decision, Caputo wrote that the town constitutes a museum. Under the terms of NAGPRA, a tribe has the right to take possession of any Indian remains owned by a museum. The Sac and Fox Nation, headquartered in Stroud, Okla., has offered to help secure grant funding to finance moving Thorpe’s remains to his native Oklahoma. Borough leaders maintain that although the appeal is likely to cost the community thousands of dollars, the alternative is a process that would involve an even more expensive archaeological review of Thorpe’s grave and could expose the

See **REMAINS** on Page 3



The Jim Thorpe Memorial in Jim Thorpe, Penn.

COURTESY NATE MAAS

Pawnee Business Council inauguration set for May 18

PAWNEE, Okla. – Recently elected members of the Pawnee Nation’s Business Council will be sworn into office at 10 a.m. on May 18 in the Roam Chief Event Center located at 810 Morris Road in Pawnee.

Those elected consist of Bruce Pratt as vice president, Phammie N. Littlesun as secretary, Adrian Spottedhorsechief as Seat 3 representative, Liana Chapman Teter as Seat 4 representative and Misty M. Nuttle as treasurer.

In 1936, the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma approved the Pawnee Nation Constitution and Corporate Charter that established its Business and Nasharo councils.

The Pawnee Business Council is the supreme governing body of

the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Its other members are President Marshall Gover, Seat 2 Rep. Karla Knife Chief and Seat 1 Rep. Richard Tilden.

Recently appointed Nasharo Council members are Head Chief James Horn and Second Chief Matt Reed of the Chaui Band, Head Chief Morgan Littlesun and Second Chief Ralph Haymond of the Kitkahaki Band, Head Chief Francis Morris and Second Chief Lester SunEagle of the Petahawirata Band and Head Chief Warren Pratt Jr., and Second Chief Pat Leading Fox of the Skidi Band.

The Nasharo Council, also known as the “Chiefs Council,” consists of eight members, each serving four-year terms.

Bill to recognize tribal police as peace officers awaits Fallin’s signature

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma tribal law enforcement officers are one signature away from being recognized by the state as peace officers.

Sponsored in the House of Representatives by Native American caucus members Rep. Lisa Billy (R-Purcell) and Rep. Chuck Hoskin (D-Vinita), House Bill 1871 will allow tribal police officers who are commissioned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and CLEET certified to enforce state law on tribal trust land, including making arrests for offenses committed by non-tribal citizens.

The bill also allows tribal law enforcement officers to assist county and city police officers on cases within the tribe’s jurisdiction, even if a pre-existing

cross-deputation agreement is not in place.

Among the tribes that will benefit from the new law is the Wyandotte Tribe. In addition to playing an active role in the bill’s conception and drafting, since 2009, the tribe’s police force is the law enforcement agency for Wyandotte, Okla., an Ottawa County community of about 400 people.

“We’re in a rural area without that many officers to begin with, so this is a big relief,” Wyandotte Tribe Police Chief Ken Murphy said. “With the state legislature recognizing our officers who are BIA-commissioned or have CLEET certification, that lets us feel that we don’t have to worry about a judge questioning a cross-deputation agreement.”

The bill was sent to Gov. Mary Fallin on May 7. She is expected to sign it later this month.

University of Tulsa graduates first class of online Indian Law students

■ The University of Tulsa College of Law is the national leader in Native American law. It is one of only a few schools in the nation to offer an LL.M. in Native American and Indigenous Law, and the first to offer an online Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law.

HEATHER RAHHAL PALACIOS
University of Tulsa Media Release

TULSA, Okla. – The first four students of the University of Tulsa’s online Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law (MJIL) degree program participated in graduation ceremonies over the weekend.

TU partnered with Concord Law School of Kaplan University in fall of 2011 to establish the online program, the only one of its kind in the nation. The program provides a broad education in Indian Law for non-lawyers working in varied aspects of tribal government and business.

The students will be completing their degrees in August.

“This represents a milestone for these students, for Indian Country, and for the College of Law,” said Dean Janet Levit.

Students in the MJIL program come from diverse backgrounds. “Most MJIL students are predominantly first generation college students,” says Shonday Harmon, Director of the MJIL Program at TU.

One such graduating student is Bennie Francisco, Jr., Navajo. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, with a Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies with a concentration in Leadership and Building Native Nations.

“There is also a scholarly



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
The University of Tulsa College of Law is a private law school with a total enrollment of 350 students and a student to faculty ratio of 11:1. The school is located at 4th and Harvard in Tulsa.

component in the curriculum that educators from across the country are seeking out,” Harmon said.

Graduating student Fred Edward Knowles Jr. is a member of the Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe and a professor at Valdosta University in Nashville, Georgia. He enrolled in the MJIL program in order to diversify the offerings of his courses when he returns to teaching.

The other two graduates of the program are Dwayanna Lucas, a Cherokee from Catoosa, Okla. and Cynthia Tiger, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Deadlines to enroll in the MJIL program for summer and fall are: May 15 and July 15, respectively. Summer classes will begin June 3 and fall classes August 26.

About The University of Tulsa College of Law:

The University of Tulsa College of Law is the national leader in Native American law. It is one of only a few schools in the nation to offer an LL.M. in Native American and Indigenous Law, and the first to offer an online Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law.

The University of Tulsa College of Law, a private law school with a total enrollment of 350 students and a student to faculty ratio of 11:1, provides an academically rigorous, yet congenial atmosphere with opportunities for scholarship, leadership and faculty mentoring. Students develop practical skills through participation with student-driven legal journals, award-winning moot court teams, an on-campus clinic, and pro bono program. TU’s Mabree Legal Information Center is recognized as one of the nation’s top university law libraries. For more information on The University of Tulsa’s College of Law, visit www.utulsa.edu/law. For more information on the Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law (MJIL) visit indianlawmj.org.

About Concord Law School

Concord Law School is the nation’s premier provider of online law degrees. Since opening its virtual doors in 1998, Concord has helped more than 1,500 graduates obtain their Juris Doctor (JD) or Executive Juris DoctorSM (EJD) degree. Concord is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council, a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

Concord Law School of Kaplan University is part of Kaplan Higher Education, which serves more than 74,000 students through more than 70 campus-based schools across the United States and abroad. Kaplan Higher Education is part of Kaplan, Inc., a leading international provider of educational and career services for individuals, schools and businesses. Kaplan, Inc. is a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company (NYSE: WPO), and its largest division. For more information, visit info.concordlawschool.edu.

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Emergency contraception workshops scheduled

■ Attendees will receive a resource toolkit that includes pamphlets, scripts for public service announcements, posters and fact sheets about the medication, which is not synonymous with RU-486, the so-called “abortion pill.”

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – One organization is bringing its campaign to improve women’s reproductive health in Indian Country back to Oklahoma. The Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center, based out of Lake Andes, S.D., is hosting two free workshops in Oklahoma on emergency contraception and its availability through Indian Health Services. The first session is scheduled for May 14 at the Lawton Indian Hospital, located at 1515 N. Lawrie Tatum Road. The second is scheduled for May 16 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to the public, attendees are asked to reserve a seat by contacting Maya Torrelba at mayatorrelba@gmail.com in order to ensure enough lunches are ordered. “When we were in Oklahoma last

time, it was astounding that there was so many myths around what emergency contraception is all about and a lot of them had gotten that impression from the opposition – right wing, religious right and even the media,” NAWHERC director Charon Asetoyer said. “What we realized is that we have to go in and de-mystify these myths about what emergency contraception is.” The workshops will focus on providing information about emergency contraception, what it does and does not do and what the restrictions are in place concerning its use. Attendees will receive a resource toolkit that includes pamphlets, scripts for public service announcements, posters and fact sheets about the medication, which is not synonymous with RU-486, the so-called “abortion pill.” “One of the things we have to remember is that emergency contraception can reduce the number

of abortions that occur,” Asetoyer said. “If you’ve been sexually assaulted, an abortion is a potential residual effect of that and we want to minimize that trauma. “If it’s just a matter of taking emergency contraception, it can reduce the amount of trauma and won’t force a victim to deal with that potential consequence. In Indian Country, one in three Native women will be raped – we want to do everything possible to ensure she’s not facing additional trauma.” A 2012 NAWHERC survey of 63 IHS pharmacies in the Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Aberdeen, S.D., and Bemidji, Minn., service areas showed that almost half carried some form of emergency contraception – either Plan B or its generic counterpart -- but did not have it available over the counter, despite the Food and Drug Administration eliminating the prescription requirement in 2006 for women older than 18. Earlier this year, the prescription requirement was eliminated for women age 15 and older. Among the pharmacies surveyed, only four had a version of the emergency contraception available as a true over the counter medication, not requiring a doctor’s appointment

or prescription. Forty-three percent did not carry any form of emergency contraception, despite the fact that one out of every three Native American women will be raped in her lifetime. The survey, coupled with an open records request from the Native American Community Board and the American Civil Liberties Union for IHS’ written policies, procedures, directives and requirements for emergency contraception dispensation, prompted Indian Health Services to make the medication more readily available over the counter this year, but a written policy is still not in place. “Most of the IHS pharmacies are now providing emergency contraception over the counter,” Asetoyer said. “Not all, but most. “IHS does not have total control over the tribally-run facilities, which is even more of a reason for us to go in and do this education, share this info so people will advocate for it within their tribally-run facilities.” Similar workshops are scheduled for July 17 in Albuquerque and July 19 in Espanola Valley, N.M. Planning efforts are tentatively underway to offer the workshop in additional states in the future.

Haskell Univ. president leaving for Oklahoma job

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) – The president of Haskell Indian Nations University plans to resign soon to take another position in Oklahoma. The Lawrence Journal World reports that Chris Redman made the announcement May 7 in a message to students, faculty and staff. In the memo, Redman said he’d be moving closer to his family after being offered a new position. Redman wrote that the

“choice was difficult.” But he added that he’s been given a “great opportunity to continue to serve Indian Country in a new capacity.” The note included no additional details about Redman’s new job. Haskell spokesman Stephen Prue says Redman and other officials wouldn’t comment beyond the memo, out of a desire not to draw attention away from Friday’s commencement ceremonies. Redman

says more information will be released after commencement.



Chris Redman

UKB taking applications for Spring 2013 elder assistance disbursements

MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma will begin taking applications for the Spring 2013 Elder Assistance Program. The UKB Elder Assistance Program provides all tribal elders over 55 years of age semi-annual financial assistance in the amount of \$300 for each period. This is to assist Keetoowah Cherokee elders with funding they can utilize at their discretion. The tribe will be taking the first round of applications from now through noon May 23. The applications will also be accepted the last week of May and for two weeks in June. The last day for accepting applications is noon on June 14. Applications will be taken on the days the tribe is open on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Fridays until noon. Tribal offices will be closed May 14 for Employee Appreciation Day; and May 24 and 27 for Memorial Day Holidays. Eligible elders must be an exclusive member. All required documents for exclusive membership must be on file in the enrollment office. Elders age 55-64 must be exclusive members for one year at the time of assistance application. Exclusive members 65 and

older immediately qualify for assistance after council approval of the enrollee. All eligible members in a household will receive the Elder Assistance. Applications may be cut out of the May issue of the Gaduwa Cherokee News, or picked up at any tribal or satellite office. A new application must be submitted each time the program disperses checks. If there are any changes to the application from the last time the applicant applied such as change of address, applicants must come in person to the Enrollment office. Completed applications may be turned in by fax, mail, or direct delivery to the Tribal Enrollment office located in the UKB Community Services Building at the UKB Tribal Complex on Keetoowah Circle off West Willis Road in Tahlequah. The fax number is (918) 453-9345. All Elder Assistance checks will be mailed. Assistance checks for applicants who applied May 6 - 23 will be mailed on May 28th. Checks for applicants who apply from May 28 - 31 will be mailed June 5, for applicants who apply from June 3-7 will be mailed June 11, and checks for applicants who apply June 10 - 14 will be mailed on June 18. For more information, call the enrollment office at (918) 453-9375.

Dreadfulwater Announces Candidacy for District 2

TAHLEQUAH, Okla.-- Longtime Cherokee Nation Senior Director of Finance Tamsye Dreadfulwater has announced her candidacy for Cherokee Nation Tribal Council District 2, serving a large portion of Tahlequah and Cherokee County. “I am pleased to be running to represent the people of this district,” Dreadfulwater said. “The Cherokee people are my family and my friends, and after many years as a tribal employee I would be honored to now have the opportunity to serve them as their Council representative.” Dreadfulwater is the daughter of Louise and beloved Cherokee singer J.B. Dreadfulwater. A 1983 graduate of Tahlequah High School, she began her career with the Cherokee Nation in the registration and head start areas. After

receiving her bachelor’s degree in accounting, she continued her education and earned a master’s degree in business administration from Oklahoma City University. In 1993 she returned to serve the Cherokee people as a staff accountant and stayed with the department for the next 18 years, where she served as the Senior Director of Finance throughout the remainder of her tenure with the tribe. During her time overseeing the department, she set the bar high by helping the Cherokee Nation be honored with the coveted Government Financial Officers Award of Excellence in Financial Reporting for nine straight years, a feat unheard of in Indian Country for a tribal government. “Winning that award nine straight years was one of the highlights of my career with the Cherokee Nation,”

she said. “It proved to the Cherokee people and official representatives in both federal and state governments that the Cherokee Nation was operating at the utmost trusted efficiency.” With her extensive financial background, Dreadfulwater’s goal in the council will be to focus on the responsible acts of the government and providing the citizens a trusted voice in assisting them with their needs. “My dad always taught to take responsibility for your actions, and responsibility and trust has always played an important part of my life. My goal is to represent the citizens of District 2 well by assuring their government is always accountable and trustworthy for their actions and service to the Cherokee people. I hope they will honor me with their trust.”

COMPACTS

Continued from Page 1

Tiger said. “For too long, the state has flexed its sovereignty muscle. It’s our turn.” As per a request from the governor’s office, the meeting, hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, will be restricted to tribes’ chiefs, governors, presidents and chairmen. A separate public function is also in the works that would be open to tribal legislators, attorneys general and other government officials. “This is a positive step in the right direction,” Sac and Fox Principal Chief George Thurman said. “I hope she means it.” Last month, UINOKT members requested an explanation from the state as to why she has not been participating in the tobacco

compact negotiating process and why extending existing compacts is not an option for tribes whose agreements with the state expire June 30. Gov. Fallin’s general counsel, Steve Mullins, has been the state’s lead negotiator in compact talks. Tobacco compacts for 28 of Oklahoma’s 39 federally recognized tribes expire June 30. Despite a request from more than 20 tribes to extend existing compacts through August 2017, Gov. Fallin’s office has maintained that it will only extend short-term extensions to tribes still engaged in “good faith” negotiations on June 30. So far, only two tribes, the Kaw Nation and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, have signed new compacts this year, which take effect July 1. Neither new compact includes most favored nation clauses or border tax rates, which the governor’s office has publicly come out

against. Under the current compacts, lower tax rates are available for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Arkansas, Kansas or Missouri, which have lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops. Tribal smoke shops without a compact and non-tribal tobacco retailers must sell cigarettes to the public with a \$1.03 stamp. “If we’re going to have to settle for \$1.03 (per pack), I want something in return,” Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo said. “If have to settle for a five year compact, I want something in return. Those are their terms.” Headquartered in Wewoka, Okla., the Seminole Nation has three smoke shops that charge an \$.85 tax rate on each pack of cigarettes.

REMAINS

Continued from Page 1

borough to an additional lawsuit by some of Thorpe’s grandchildren who want his remains left in Pennsylvania. “The borough has stated in published reports that it has decided to appeal because an appeal will cost less than a repatriation,” Sac and Fox preservation officer Sandra K. Massey said. “With standing as a ‘museum’ for purposes of the statute, the borough is eligible for a repatriation grant. “One of the borough’s attorneys also stated that the repatriation would involve costly archaeological work. In this case, there is no need for any archaeological or scientific work since the record is clear and conclusive. We know who is buried at the Jim Thorpe gravesite. That’s why we filed the case. Grants are available for both sides to defray the costs of repatriation. All that is needed for repatriation is notice to the interested parties under the law and an opportunity for them to provide their comments and preferences.”



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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5 inducted into Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame

NORMAN, Okla. – A protector of tribal archives, a generous philanthropist, a decorated military hero, an early tribal official and a progressive Chickasaw rancher and politician comprise the 2013 class of the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame ceremonies were Tuesday, May 7 at Riverwind Showplace Theater in Norman.

The 2013 Chickasaw Hall of Fame inductees are Betty Ruth Kemp, of Norman; Colbert Latimer “Bud” Baker, of Marco Island, Fla.; Gene “Nashoba” Thompson, of Austin, Texas; Thomas Benjamin Thompson, Sr.; and Benson Pikey.

Thompson and Pikey were inducted posthumously.

Governor Bill Anoatubby participated in the 2013 induction ceremonies.

“Each of our inductees, past and present, have brought honor to the Chickasaw Nation. They are an inspiration to all of us,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “They prove with hard work, determination and perseverance anything is possible. They prove an ordinary person can do extraordinary things.”



Betty Ruth Kemp

Betty Ruth Kemp

Betty Ruth Kemp has dedicated her life and career to protecting and preserving ancient archives and serving as a modern day Chickasaw conduit between the Southeastern homelands and Oklahoma.

Kemp began her career in 1952 as an extra loan librarian with the University of Texas Library. She later worked as the librarian at Dallas Public Library and lead manager for two new branches from 1956 to 1964. After receiving her master's degree, she was appointed Director of Cherokee Regional Library, a three-county regional library with headquarters in Lafayette, Walker County, Georgia.

She led a successful campaign for passage of a bond issue to construct a new 18,000 square-foot headquarters library.

Motivated by a drive to appreciate her Chickasaw heritage and encouraged by library users and local history buffs, Kemp organized the Walker County Historical and Genealogical Society during this

time.

In 1974, she was appointed director of the Lee-Itawamba Library System, in Tupelo, Mississippi. During her 18-year tenure as director, the library budget increased from \$50,000 to \$800,000 and the staff of eight increased to 25.

“Betty Kemp forged a vital connection between Chickasaws in Oklahoma and our ancestral homeland,” said Gov. Anoatubby. “Her research has led to many enriching experiences and insights into our past. Her accomplishments within the library system ensure that future generations will be able to discover a passion for research just as she did.”

The Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society and the Friends of Lee County were both organized under her direction. She helped raise funds for the renovation of the Lee Country Library when a Chickasaw collection was established for the Helen Foster Local History Room. She retired from the directorship in March 1992.

During the 1970s Miss Kemp spoke often on Chickasaw history and Native American genealogical research to organizations in the Tupelo area. Her research and her efforts to promote the Chickasaw origins in northeast Mississippi culminated in an official invitation from Pontotoc County, Mississippi to then-Chickasaw Nation Governor Overton James to celebrate with anniversary of the signing of The Treaty of Pontotoc. She also co-wrote a grant to fund archaeology research into Chickasaw habitation in the region.

Kemp has lived in Norman, Okla., since 1993 and participates in many Chickasaw activities and has taught many cultural craft classes.



Gene “Nashoba” Thompson

Gene “Nashoba” Thompson

Retired U.S. Army Col. Gene “Nashoba” Thompson joined the Oklahoma National Guard at the age of 16 and retired in 1983. He was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, presented to senior officers who perform “superior

meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility.”

“Gene Thompson has dedicated his life to service - both to his country and to his tribe,” said Gov. Anoatubby. “Living with such purpose is admirable, and an inspiration to us all. Even today, he places a high priority on the preservation of the Chickasaw nation's heritage.”

A world leader in the field of entomology, Col. Thompson served as executive director of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board. This board recommends policy, procedure and offers guidance on all matters related to pest management. He developed the first program used by the Department of Defense to protect its worldwide food and clothing stockpiles.

Following his Army retirement, Mr. Thompson conducted field studies for the Texas Department of Health.

Col. Thompson is active in the Austin, Texas area as a Chickasaw Nation ambassador and an advocate for Native American culture and history. He speaks at civic organizations, seminars and schools throughout Texas and Oklahoma about Chickasaw beliefs and practices.

Col. Thompson is an active member of the Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas and resides in Austin with his wife, Vivian.



Colbert Latimer “Bud” Baker Jr.

Colbert Latimer “Bud” Baker Jr.

Born in 1924 to Colbert Latimer Baker and Martha Lois Brunt, Colbert Latimer “Bud” Baker Jr. has distinguished himself in his profession, in military service and through outstanding contributions to the Chickasaw Nation.

A University of Oklahoma graduate, Baker exemplifies the Chickasaw entrepreneurship spirit. Among other businesses, Baker founded Chickasaw Distributors, Inc., in 1979. Officially recognized as an American Indian company, the entity specializes in tubular goods and drill pipe distributed exclusively to Shell Oil's Gulf region. Today, the company

generates more than \$200 million in annual sales and continues to be family operated.

“Colbert Baker epitomizes the entrepreneurial spirit that has been part of Chickasaw culture for hundreds of years,” said Gov. Anoatubby. “His generosity to the tribe is given hopes that fellow citizens will work to become the best they can be. His legacy includes opening doors and offering opportunities to other Chickasaws. Many have taken those opportunities and achieved success.”

Bringing honor to the Chickasaw people, Baker served as a U.S. Navy officer during World War II and the Korean War. He served aboard the USS Los Angeles and USS Toledo. He rose to the rank of ensign and was decorated for his wartime service.

Through generous donations to the Chickasaw Foundation, Baker has helped many Chickasaw students fulfill their educational dreams and better their lives. In 2000, the Colbert “Bud” Baker Scholarship was established through the Chickasaw Foundation.

He currently is a member of numerous clubs, boards and associations in the fields of petroleum, real estate and civic duty.

Baker lives in Marco Island, Florida where he enjoys tennis, swimming, calisthenics, music and reading.

Benson Pikey

Benson Pikey was known as a man of integrity and embodied what it means to be Chickasaw.

Born in Mississippi about 1837, Mr. Pikey came to Indian Territory during the time of Chickasaw Removal.

Active in the Chickasaw House of Representatives, Pikey was elected as a representative prior to the War Between the States and honorably severed as Speaker of the House.

He continued public service as a representative until circa 1890.

During the War Between the States, Pikey served the Confederacy as Captain of Company G, Sheco's Chickasaw Battalion Mounted Volunteers.

After the War he established Pikey's Crossing, one of several important cattle crossings for the Chisholm Trail. With the land run and the creation of Oklahoma City, Pikey's Crossing became the main crossing point on the South Canadian River between Chickasha and Oklahoma City until 1932 when highway bridges made the ferry obsolete.

“Benson Pikey took measures to protect Chickasaw farmers, their land and property,” said

Gov. Anoatubby. “He was an entrepreneur whose businesses offered benefits to dozens of Chickasaws. He literally opened the way to success for many ranchers and others who were making their way in the new homeland.”

He died July 1895 at his home on the South Canadian about 18 miles east of Minco.

Thomas Benjamin Thompson Sr.

The last elected treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation, Thomas Benjamin Thompson Sr. is best known for working with former Chickasaw Nation Governor Douglas H. Johnston to protect the Chickasaw people during the years immediately after Oklahoma statehood.

“Like Benson Pikey, Thomas Thompson helped fellow Chickasaws make the transition after the Dawes Act and into Oklahoma statehood,” said Gov. Anoatubby. “He also encouraged his children and grandchildren to be proud of their Chickasaw heritage and to give back to their tribe.”

An original enrollee, Thompson spent endless hours helping fellow tribal citizens register with the Dawes Commission.

Thompson began his service with the Chickasaw Nation in 1888. As a clerk of the Chickasaw Supreme Court, he worked closely with his uncle, Judge Overton “Sobe” Love, a fellow Chickasaw Hall of Fame inductee.

Thompson's greatest legacy to the Chickasaw people has been his descendants. He encouraged his children and grandchildren to be proud of their Chickasaw heritage and to never forget the traditions of the tribe. He emphasized to them the importance of giving back to the tribe and always working for the betterment of the Chickasaw people. His heirs include Chickasaw Hall of Fame inductees Te Ata Fisher, daughter; Helen Cole, granddaughter; Eugene Thompson, grandson; and U.S. Congressman Tom Cole, great-grandson.

Thomas Benjamin Thompson, Sr. died April 23, 1939 in Oklahoma City, at age 74.

Established in 1987, the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame honors Chickasaws who have made significant contributions to Chickasaw people or the Native American community.

Induction to the Chickasaw Hall of Fame is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Chickasaw by the Chickasaw Nation. For more information about the Chickasaw Hall of Fame, visit www.chickasaw.net/hof.

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Tribal officials sentenced for embezzling

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) – The last two officials convicted of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux tribe in the Dakotas have been sentenced for their roles in the crime. Jacqueline Wanna, 67, was sentenced Thursday in U.S. District Court in Aberdeen to six months of house arrest and five years of probation, the American News reported. Tammie Strutz, 52, was sentenced to two years in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Wanna is the former vice chairwoman of the tribe’s Heipa-

Veblen district, and Strutz is the former treasurer. Both pleaded guilty earlier to a felony count of aiding and abetting misapplication of tribal funds. Former district chairman Lloyd LaBelle Jr., 53, was sentenced earlier to 11/2 years in prison. Former district secretary Charlene Wanna, 61, who is Jacqueline Wanna’s sister, was sentenced earlier to 33 months, or nearly three years, behind bars. LaBelle pleaded guilty, while Charlene Wanna was convicted by a jury. She is appealing her conviction. The defendants together also must pay nearly \$346,000 in

restitution. Authorities say Strutz stole the most money, at about \$122,000, while Charlene Wanna took about \$93,000, Jacqueline Wanna \$77,000 and LaBelle about \$53,000. Strutz admitted she gambled away the money she stole. The four officials stole the money between January 2007 and January 2009, often meeting at a tribal casino to issue checks to themselves and immediately cash them, federal investigators said. The money was supposed to be used to benefit the young, elderly and disabled members of the district.

Strutz and Charlene Wanna concocted the plan to steal the money and talked LaBelle and Jacqueline Wanna into going along with the scheme, Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Wright said. Each of the defendants could have been sentenced to as much as five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Judge Charles Kornmann said he did not issue fines because he did not think the defendants would be able to pay them. He also expressed doubt the four will be able to pay the full restitution.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

is still some question as to who will be conducting it as each administration’s election commission has sent out notices that as the constitutional election board, it is accepting candidacy filings and voter registration forms. The election commission affiliated with Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration is working out of the tribes’ complex in Concho, Okla. The commission recognized by Leslie Wandrie-Harjo’s administration has an office in El Reno, Okla., and a post office box in Weatherford, Okla. Each side’s election commission has at least one open seat. In the letter, Ortiz asks that the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Council designate enough tribal citizens to ensure representation for all eight of the tribes’ districts. Jane Nightwalker, speaker for the legislature affiliated with the Wandrie-Harjo administration, said a petition is being circulated to get enough tribal citizens’ signatures for a special council meeting, but could not give a timeline for when that meeting would be. As per the Cheyenne and Arapaho constitution, at least 15 days’ notice must be given for a special council meeting after a petition with at least 150 tribal citizens’ signatures is filed with the Tribal Council coordinator.

Lisa Liebl, spokeswoman for the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, said their side would fill the remaining election commission seats through its legislature. “The legislature is going to appoint more commissioners in the coming days,” she said. “At that juncture, all eight commission seats will be filled and each district will be represented on the election board. A collaboration with the El Reno group is not on the table.” As per the tribes’ constitution, the candidates’ filing period began last Wednesday and closes June 1. The primary election is scheduled for Oct. 8 and the general election is scheduled for Nov. 5. Along with four legislative positions, the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are up for election this year. “This will probably wind up in court, but I don’t think any of us thought that this would go on this long,” Nightwalker said. The Bureau of Indian Affairs did not respond to requests for comment or additional information.

5 accused of diverting tribe’s stimulus money, federal funding for freshwater pipeline halted

■ The CEO of the tribal company that headed the pipeline project, Chippewa Cree Construction Corp., awarded contracts and authorized cash transfers in a complex web of transactions to embezzle and launder the money.

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) – A Chippewa Cree tribal leader, a former state lawmaker and three others used a fake billing system and a shell company to pocket hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal stimulus aid meant for the Montana tribe, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. The Chippewa Cree Tribe received \$33 million in federal funding between 2009 and 2010 for construction of a \$361 million pipeline to supply fresh drinking water for the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation and surrounding counties in northern Montana. Most of that \$33 million came from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment act, also known as the stimulus. The CEO of the tribal company that headed the pipeline project, Chippewa Cree Construction Corp., awarded contracts and authorized cash transfers in a complex web of transactions to

embezzle and launder the money, according to the indictment unsealed last Tuesday. The cash ended up in the bank accounts of intermediaries and in a tribal rodeo account controlled by tribal council member John Chance Houle. More than \$100,000 was used to start a Billings pipe supply company owned by the construction company’s CEO and contracting officer, former Rep. Tony Belcourt. His new company, MT Waterworks, was later awarded a \$633,000 stimulus contract to supply the water pipeline project. Another \$62,000 was used to buy a house in Box Elder in the name of Belcourt’s wife, Hailey Lee Belcourt. It is unclear what happened to the rest of the money after it was parked in the rodeo account, the account of a consulting firm and in the personal account of the woman who ran the consulting firm. Federal prosecutors are seeking the return of \$311,000, the real estate that was purchased and ownership of MT Waterworks. Houle, the Belcourts, Tammy Leischner, and her husband, Mark Leischner, were arraigned May 7 in U.S. District Court in Great Falls on 17 charges of theft, fraud and money laundering. Each charge carries a maximum penalty upon conviction of between five and 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. They pleaded not guilty and were released on their own

recognizance. Tammy Leischner’s father, James Eastlick, will be arraigned at a later date. “There is some truth to it, but it doesn’t add up to a crime,” Belcourt’s attorney, Chuck Watson, said of the allegations in the indictment. The indictment alleges Belcourt transferred \$165,000 in federal funds to Tammy Leischner’s newly created consulting firm in Laurel, T Leischner Consulting, in February 2010, then opened a bank account for his new company, MT Waterworks. A little more than a week later, Leischner’s father transferred \$101,000 from the consulting firm’s account to the MT Waterworks, according to the indictment. Prosecutors say the consulting firm was simply a shell company used to embezzle stimulus money from the Chippewa Cree Construction Corp.’s account. That March and April, Belcourt conducted a series of complex financial transactions involving the consulting firm and legitimate companies in Colorado and Missouri to pay for the shipment of water pipe from Denver to Montana, prosecutors said. The result was that the transportation costs were overbilled by \$311,000 – money that ended up in Leischner’s consulting company’s account, according to prosecutors. In May 2010, Eastlick transferred \$200,000 from the consulting firm’s

account to the Chippewa Cree Rodeo Association bank account. The next month, Houle issued two checks totaling \$133,000 to M. Leischner, which were deposited into Mark and Tammy Leischner’s personal bank account, the indictment says. Using the money in that personal account, Tammy Leischner bought a cashier’s check in the amount of \$62,062 in July. The check was used to complete the purchase of a home on the Rocky Boy’s reservation with the title in the name of Hailey Belcourt, according to the indictment. The federal Bureau of Reclamation in March temporarily halted funding for the pipeline after learning that federal money was missing from the tribal construction company’s bank account. Former tribal chairman Ken Blatt St. Marks, who was ousted by Houle and the other council members earlier this year, has said he reported federal funds for the water pipeline project was missing and that he and the council replaced the money from other revenue. The former chairman once tried to fire Belcourt as head of the construction company, but the other council members later rehired Belcourt while St. Marks was out of town, St. Marks said. Tribal attorney Dan Belcourt, Tony Belcourt’s cousin, has said the tribe is “actively working with BOR on the issues.”


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First Native ‘Project Runway’ contestant comes up short

PHAEDRA HAYWOOD
The New Mexican

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – The judges called her collection spectacular, different, cool and unique. But Taos Pueblo fashion designer Patricia Michaels didn’t win Season 11 of “Project Runway,” the fashion-design-themed reality show on cable television’s Lifetime channel hosted by supermodel Heidi Klum. Michaels came in second.

“Sorry guys,” the designer said to supporters who gathered for a \$100-a-plate dinner at a private home on Santa Fe’s east side to watch results of the competition’s finale, which was recorded last summer but kept secret until the April 25 broadcast.

Michaels’ second-place finish means she won’t get the \$100,000 top prize to create a new line to sell at Lord & Taylor department stores. She also didn’t win a fashion spread in Marie Claire magazine or a new Lexus.

Those prizes go to first-place finisher Michelle Lesniak Franklin, who some partisans considered the “mean girl” on the show.

But Michaels’ 12-piece collection, inspired by trees and embellished with horse hair and handmade sterling silver sequins, created quite a stir among the celebrity judges on the panel, including famed dress designer Zach Posen, who dubbed it “techno powpow.”

And Michaels – the first Native American to appear on the show and a season-long favorite of host Klum – has already begun to parlay the exposure into a number of lucrative and creative projects.

Michaels’ longtime assistant, Amber Gunn Gauthier, said the duo already are working on a line that they’ll debut at New York Fashion Week in September, aided by support from Thursday’s fundraiser. Posen has asked Michaels to collaborate with him on a textile project. Her work will also be the subject of a retrospective curated by the Smithsonian. Just this week, she turned away people who wanted to take her textile-making class at



Patricia Michaels designed Eagle Feather Couture Dress sells for \$900.00 on www.beyondbuckskin.com

the POEH Center in Pojoaque. And she’s she has several other projects that are still in the secrecy stage.

Guest judge and fashion superstar Michael Kors said at the beginning of her runway show, “I was like, ‘Oh my god, the art teacher is on an acid trip,’ “ but he later called Michaels work “fabulous” and said it “comes from her soul.” Indeed, it was her unique way

of expressing herself through handcrafted textiles inspired by nature that kept her in the show through the whole season and also played a part in the judges’ decision to choose Franklin’s collection over Michaels’.

“I don’t understand who her customer is,” said judge Nina Garcia, a fashion critic and fashion director at Marie Claire who has been critical of Michaels’ work throughout



Patricia Michaels gets to work on an episode of Lifetime Network’s “Project Runway.”



Patricia Michaels, far right, with the rest of the Lifetime Network’s “Project Runway” cast.

the season and wanted to Michaels to “make it more understandable.”

“They wanted New York ready-to-wear,” Michaels said, “and I knew that. But what was I gonna do, be safe and go home sad?”

Michaels said she feels honored to have come as far as she did on the highly competitive program, which began with 16 contestants, and to represent her Native culture on the runway. And she’s glad she stayed true to her vision and didn’t succumb to pressure to make her collections more commercially appealing. “As a designer, if you don’t give something new for the world to see you are wasting everyone’s time,” she said. “As an artist you have to be bold enough to put your work out there.”

“I hope I’ve met everybody’s expectations,” she said.



EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com**
name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

SECOND TUESDAY
Cherokee Artists Association meeting at 202 E. 5th Street Tahlequah, Okla. Info: (918) 458-0008 or www.cherokeeartistsassociation.org

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci.Phillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from

8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrc.org

The 2013 Chilocco Reunion Prep-Day, originally scheduled for May 4, is rescheduled for May 25 due to inclement weather. Participants should bring their own work tools and mop. The 2013 reunion is May 30 - June 2. Everyone is invited to the free powwow beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31.

MAY 17
Veterans Health Care Enrollment and Benefits Fair, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Pawnee Indian Health Center, conference room, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, Oklahoma. Bring a copy of Discharge papers (DD-214) and Social Security card. Get assistance enrolling in the VA Health Care system. A representative from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) service will assist Veterans in completing Disability claims. For more information, contact Gertrude Lee at 918-762-6632.

MAY 18
2011-2012 Osage Princess, Dora Josephine Williams, Honor Dance, sponsored by the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, at the Pawhuska Fairgrounds Building, Pawhuska, OK. Info call 918-885-2976.

Classical Native Stars benefit concert for the Five Civilized

Tribes Museum at Bacone College Chapel, Muskogee, Okla. \$18 advance tickets, \$20 at the door. Performances by Barbara McAlister; JJ Hudson, Rebecca Mann with Timothy Long as pianist. More info call the museum 918-683-1701.

The Chokka Kilimpi department within the Youth and Family Division of The Chickasaw Nation is sponsoring a 5K Run, participants wanted. For more information, contact Sallie Wallace at (580) 221-3775.

Indian Women’s Pocahontas Club annual community picnic, 10:30 a.m. at Will Rogers’ Birthplace Ranch, Oologah. Music, hog fry, auction and Cherokee games. Bring your lawn chair. Info call Ollie Starr 918-760-7499.

MAY 24, 25 & 26
49th Annual Delaware Pow Wow Fred Fall-Leaf Memorial Pow Wow Grounds, 401050 W. 600 Road, Copan, OK 74022 For more information, call Elaine Clinton at 918/531-2526 or e-mail clintonj88@yahoo.com.

MAY 25
All Nations Frybread Showdown Contest, 11 a.m. at 1400 Crad-duck Road, Ada (at old K-Mart parking lot). Public invited. Entry fee is \$20 per person, \$5 per vote for the people’s favorite choice award. First place winner prize receives a double propane grill. An all-you-can-eat frybread contest will also be held. Also available, face painting, a moon bounce, clowns, a cake walk, turtle race and concession stand. For more info, contact Couita Nucosee at 580.320.6179 or couita@wildblue.net.

Yellowfish Descendants Dance

2:00 pm at Comanche Community Center, Apache, Okla. Info call Edward Yellowfish 405-203-4741 or email: edwardyellowfish@sbcglobal.net

MAY 25-26
Annual for the People Powwow, Boone County Fairgrounds, Columbia, MO. Admission \$3 adults, School Age \$1, Elders & Preschool FREE. More info call 816-679-0695 or donamckinney@swbell.net.

MAY 29 – JUNE 2
Battle on the Hardwood All-Indian 7th/8th & High School Basketball Tournament. Entry deadline May 13. More info call 918-652-5405, lvme4@yahoo.com or www.dogsoldiers4jesuschrist.org

MAY 30-JUNE 1
Miami Nation Tribal Powwow, NEO College Arena, Miami, OK. Free event. Gourd Dancing, shell shaker contest, color guard presentation with the Grand Entry. Food and merchandise vendors on hand. For more information: 918-542-1445.

MAY 31
Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 1
Birthday Dance honoring Henry A Lieb, Jr. at Ponca Tribe Cultural Center, White Eagle, Okla. War dance at 2pm; Meal at 5pm; Soldier Dance at 6:30pm and Gourd Dance at 7pm. Special contests! For more info call Kinsel

Lieb 580-304-9440

Seneca Indian School Reunion, Wyandotte Tribal Office Title VI Cafeteria

JUNE 3
Charity Golf Tourney for The Right Path, providing therapeutic horseback riding and cart driving for special needs children. Donations tax deductible. Single player \$80, Foursome \$320. Registration begins at 11:15 am, Cushing Country Club. More info call 918-607-5796 or rightpathacademy@sbcglobal.net

JUNE 8
Inter-tribal Children’s Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 8
Locust Grove Class of 1988 Reunion. Potluck lunch, noon at Snowdale State Park Pavillion, Salina, Okla. and 6pm dinner at Cherokee Casino West Siloam Springs. All classmates, family and friends welcome. For more info, call Lisa Hicks, (918) 708-5838 or email LGclassof88@gmail.com.

JUNE 14-15
Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For times and more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

JUNE 14-16
Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-chokeee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

Native corp. launches tourism service

RACHEL D'ORO
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – An Alaska Native village corporation that operates a popular cruise ship destination has launched a commercial consulting service for others seeking help developing their own cultural tourism ventures.

Huna Totem Corp. opened Alaska Native Voices on Wednesday. Huna Totem is the village Native corporation for Hoonah – a largely Tlingit community of 775 in southeast Alaska – and one of the front-runners of tribal tourism, a growing trend in Alaska and nationally.

The corporation is entering the 10th year of operating its Icy Strait Point, a long-closed salmon cannery near Hoonah that was converted to a tourism complex with offerings that include Tlingit heritage performances and nearby attractions such as nature tram rides, whale watching tours and a mile-long zipline with a 1,300-foot vertical drop. Huna Totem also is entering its 13th year of providing cultural heritage guides to visitors of Alaska's Glacier Bay.

The corporation's new consulting business is available to Native groups as well as communities worldwide wanting to establish tourism around their own cultures, Alaska Native Voices director Mark McKernan said. The cost will vary, depending on the extent of services sought, he said.

"This idea has been slowly developing over time," McKernan said. "It became very clear that it was time to bring our experience out into the open and out to be made available to others."

Hoonah struggled after the salmon cannery closure in the 1950s, followed by the gradual decline of fishing and logging industries. Then Huna Totem transformed the 1912 cannery buildings into the cruise ship port.

Since opening in 2004, Icy Strait has drawn more than 1 million visitors. Another 135,000 cruise ship travelers are expected to stop there this year. For Hoonah, the enterprise has been lucrative, bringing an enormous boost in sales taxes and creating scores of jobs for locals, officials have said.

Alaska's off-road villages lack the luxuries seen along the cruise ship routes, however, and most don't have a designated visitor coordinator. But an increasing number of small communities are exploring ways to set up their own brands of Alaska Native tourism.


Other Native organizations are well established leaders in cultural tourism. In the southeast town of Sitka, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska has operated a cultural tour program since the mid-1990s, offering dance, passing on knowledge of traditional herbs and plants, as well as demonstrations of wood carving, beadwork and other crafts to cruise ship passengers and other travelers, according to Camille Ferguson, the tribe's former economic director.

Ferguson, now president of the Albuquerque, N.M.-based American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, said perpetuating Native culture not only enhances local economies it also helps keep traditions alive.

"Tribes are looking at it as a way to get involved," she said. "Alaska is not the only one. It's growing all over."

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Goodrich reports to training camp

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Week 1 of Angel Goodrich’s professional basketball career is officially in the books.

Along with 17 other women, Goodrich, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and the highest drafted Native American woman in WNBA history, reported for the Tulsa Shock’s training camp May 5 at Edison High School. Despite excelling during her playing days at the University of Kansas, the Sequoyah alumna said there was a steep learning curve compared to preseason work at the college level.

“I was told that there’d be a lot of stuff thrown at you and that’s exactly what happened,” she said. “There’s a lot of new information. I feel like I need to go and write some things down to remember it all.

“It’s a lot more aggressive here. These are grown women here, so it’s different. That’s the biggest difference right now.”

In the team’s preseason debut Thursday against the Atlanta Dream, Goodrich did not score, but had one rebound, one assist and one turnover in almost 14 minutes of playing time. The Shock lost 72-58.

By May 23, the Shock roster will be trimmed down to 11 players. Among the 18 women invited to training camp are nine players from the team’s 2012 roster and former University of Texas forward Tiffany Jackson-Jones, who had 11 double-doubles for Tulsa during the 2011 season and sat out the 2012 campaign due to pregnancy. After the first week of camp, two rookie free agents, forwards Vicky Baugh and Brittany Spears, were cut.

“We have some open spots,” Tulsa Shock coach Gary Kloppenburg said. “That’s why you have camp. You’re always looking to see if a young player can come in and give you something. It’s really competitive and we feel like it’s wide-open at a couple of different spots. There are some opportunities for rookies to come in.”

Training camp runs through May 14 and is closed to the public. After preseason games at Seattle and Los Angeles, Tulsa will open the regular season on May 25 in Atlanta.



LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON | NATIVE TIMES
Tulsa Shock draft selection Angel Goodrich (Cherokee) practices during a Shock training camp session in Tulsa, Okla. Goodrich, a former standout at Sequoyah High School in Tahelquah and the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., is vying for a spot on the Shock’s 2013 roster. The Shock’s home opener is May 27 against the Washington Mystics.

UKB to sponsor 3rd Day of Champions football camp

MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The United Keetoowah Band will offer the Day of Champions football camp for the third year on May 31 and June 1. The camp is open to all area youth, ages 8 to 18 years of age, however, the camp will be limited to the first 150 youth who apply.

Due to scheduling problems, the UKB did not host the camp last year, but there were many requests to bring back the well-liked camp.

The Day of Champions football camp is led by coach Ken Heupel and features guest coach Josh Heupel, quarterback of the 2000 national champion Sooners and offensive coordinator at the University of Oklahoma, along with current and former college and NFL coaches and players.

The Day of Champions camp experience is beyond just athletic skill enhancement, it provides one-on-one mentoring and coaching in athletics,

health, fitness, life choices and the four principles of leadership: discipline, respect, trust and hard work. Character, responsibility, goal setting, dedication, and integrity are themes throughout the camp and serve to motivate each camper to reach their full potential on and off the field.

Each position is taught and supervised by the Day of Champions staff. Players from experienced athletes to youth just learning the game will enhance their skills and learn basic fundamentals geared to their age and skill level. The camp is devoted to helping young people believe in themselves and live a healthy and active lifestyle.

The second day along with the previous skill-building activities, academics will be added to the camp. Ken’s wife, Cindy Heupel, has said the addition of academics gets the children to think critically about solving problems. Participants will be given breaks every 30 minutes and lunch will be provided. For more information, call 918-456-6533.

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2:00PM	Gourd Dance
5:00PM	Supper Break
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11:00PM	Closing Song

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- Inside this issue:**
- **Kiowa Election Board announces July election**
 - **Tribe wants locally grown food on area tables**
 - **Title IV cooks get crash course in nutrition**



NATIVE TIMES

New secretary lays out agenda for Native Americans

SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told a Senate panel Wednesday that “Indian education is embarrassing” as she laid out her priorities on issues affecting Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Jewell made her first ap-



Sally Jewell, Interior Secretary

pearance as Interior secretary before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. The Interior Department includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which oversees a school system for Native Americans. Jewell said some \$2 billion has been spent on American Indian schools over the past

decade and that dozens of schools remain in poor condition. She also said across-the-board federal budget cuts have forced a \$40 million reduction to Indian education spending. “Indian education is embarrassing to you and to us,” Jewell said. After the hearing, Jewell said she has not yet been on

a tour of schools – she was sworn in on April 12 – but has been told of the serious condition of some of the schools serving Native American children. “When we have a number of schools identified as in poor condition, that’s not what we aspire to,” she said. In written testimony, Jewell said the \$2 billion in

spending had reduced the number of schools from more than 120 to 63, but she stated that the “physical state of our schools remains a significant challenge.” Jewell testified that 68 schools were in poor condition but later said the number in written testimony, 63, was accurate.

See **AGENDA** on Page 4

Health care law changes could affect Oklahoma tribes

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – As a policy advisor for the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority, Melanie Fourkiller knows that documented Native Americans can access the tribe’s health care services even if they are not members of the Choctaw Nation or any other federally recognized tribe. But changes in how the government defines a Native American that are part of the Affordable Care Act could force some who are served by the Choctaw Nation to either purchase private insurance or pay an annual \$695 penalty to the Internal Revenue Service,

once it’s fully phased in. “It causes all kind of chaos,” Fourkiller said. “Members of my family would fall into the category. It just would be very confusing.” Tribal leaders from across Oklahoma are working with federal officials to restore the definition of which American Indians and Alaska Natives are exempt from the penalty to the one that has been used by the Indian Health Service for decades. “There are different definitions of Indians floating around out there,” said Dr. Charles Grim, deputy executive director of health services for the Cherokee Nation,

See **LAW** on Page 5

DOL issues new drilling rule for public lands

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Companies that drill for oil and natural gas on federal lands will be required to disclose publicly the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations, the Obama administration said Thursday. The new “fracking” rule replaces a draft proposed last year that was withdrawn amid industry complaints that federal regulation could hinder an ongoing boom in natural gas production. The new draft rule relies on an online database used by

Colorado and 10 other states to track the chemicals used in fracking operations. FracFocus.org is a website formed by industry and intergovernmental groups in 2011 that allows users to gather well-specific data on thousands of drilling sites. The proposed rule also sets standards for proper construction of wells and disposal of wastewater. Fracking involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rocks to allow oil and gas to flow. Improved

See **DRILLING** on Page 4



NOAH BERGER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solomon, a 14-year-old golden eagle, perches on a branch at the Sulphur Creek Nature Center on Thursday, May 9, 2013, in Hayward, Calif. According to keepers, a wind turbine near the Altamont Pass severed a portion of Solomon’s left wing in 2000 leaving him unable to fly or survive in the wild. It’s the not-so-green secret of the nation’s wind-energy boom: Spinning turbines are killing thousands of federally protected birds, including eagles, each year.

Wind farms get pass on eagle deaths

DINA CAPIELLO
Associated Press

CONVERSE COUNTY, Wyo. (AP) — Wind farms in this corner of Wyoming have killed more than four dozen golden eagles since 2009, one of the deadliest places in the country of its kind. But so far, the compa-

nies operating industrial-sized turbines here and elsewhere that are killing eagles and other protected birds have yet to be fined or prosecuted - even though every death is a criminal violation. The Obama administration has charged oil companies for drowning birds in their waste pits, and power

companies for electrocuting birds on power lines. But the administration has never fined or prosecuted a wind-energy company, even those that flout the law repeatedly. “What it boils down to is this: If you electrocute an eagle, that is bad, but if you chop it to pieces, that is OK,” said Tim Eicher, a for-

mer U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enforcement agent based in Cody. It’s a double standard that some Republicans in Congress said Tuesday they would examine after an Associated Press investigation revealed that the Obama administration has

See **DEATHS** on Page 3



DANA ATTOCKNIE | NATIVETIMES

Work stopped at the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum when the state legislature rejected a proposed bond project last year.

Okla. Senate unveils plan to fund museum

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – The partially-built American Indian Cultural Center and Museum might not be dead just yet. The Oklahoma Senate’s Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget passed Senate Bill 1132 Thursday, which authorizes \$40 million to finish the facility. The legislature rejected a proposed bond issue for the project last year, which led to a work stoppage at the construction site at 900 N.

Broadway. Passed by a 16-10 margin, the measure would divert \$15 million from use taxes to the project in fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and another \$10 million in 2017. Use taxes are paid instead of sales tax on purchases made online or in other states. So far, the facility has received about \$97 million in state funds, almost \$15.7 million in federal dollars and \$8 million from other sources. The figures do not include \$40 million in private pledges if the state agrees to match it with an additional \$40 million.

A performance audit released last year showed multiple problems with the project, including the center’s board of directors selecting the most expensive proposal presented by the facility’s architect, despite only having \$6 million on hand at the time. The bill now goes to the House Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget. The legislation must also make it through both full houses of the legislature before going to Gov. Mary Fallin. As per the state constitution, the 2013 legislative session must adjourn by 5 p.m. on May 31.

Cherokee Nation investing in hydro power plant

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – An Oklahoma tribe may finally be getting involved in hydroelectric power thanks to an amendment to the Water Resources Development Act.

Introduced by Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), the amendment allows the Cherokee Nation to build, own and operate a proposed \$140 million, 30-megawatt hydroelectric plant near the W.D. Mayo Lock and Dam on the Arkansas River in Sequoyah County, Okla.

The project would create up to 200 jobs during the plant's construction, plus up to 10 skilled positions after the plant is operational. According to unemployment statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor released earlier this month, Sequoyah County, Okla., has an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent, a full percentage point higher than any other county within the Cherokee Nation's jurisdictional area and more than three percentage points higher than the state-wide rate.

Since 1986, the tribe has had exclusive rights to build on the riverbed. If approved by the House of Representatives, the bill as amended would remove a requirement that the tribe transfer the proposed plant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The Cherokee Nation is extremely grateful for the support and hard work of Sen. Inhofe to ensure this measure was included in the WRDA bill," Principal Chief Bill John Baker said. "We are reviewing all of our renewable energy options, and because of his efforts, one important potential resource, hydroelectric generation at the W.D. Mayo Lock and Dam, is finally close to becoming a reality."

The amendment was passed by a voice vote Tuesday afternoon in the Senate. The full bill was approved by the Senate May 15 and awaits consideration in the House of Representatives.

Kiowa Election Board announces July election in spite of failed recall

Although the recall election is recognized as legal, only two election commissioners signed off and the results were never certified, prompting the BIA to continue recognizing recalled KBC members as the tribe's government.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CARNEGIE, Okla. – Despite previous attempts not being recognized, the Kiowa Election Board has announced its intent to conduct an election this summer.

The election board, which has been locked out of its office for almost two years, is accepting nominations for chairman, treasurer and two committee member seats on the Kiowa Business Committee through 5 p.m. on June 3. The election is scheduled for July 13.

Since a June 2011 vote to recall KBC members, the board has conducted two more elections – one in July 2011 and another in December 2012. However, neither the Kiowa Business Committee nor the Bureau of Indian Affairs' regional office in Anadarko, Okla., recognizes the results from either due

to procedural questions. Although the recall election is recognized as legal, only two election commissioners signed off and the results were never certified, prompting the BIA to continue recognizing recalled KBC members as the tribe's government.

No budgets will be on the July 13 ballot because one was not presented at the last Kiowa Indian Council meeting. However, since the tribe has not had a recognized election in almost two years, there are previous years' budgets that still have not gone before voters. In the interim, many programs have been operating off of the last voter-approved budget, which was adopted more than two years ago.

"We're stuck between a rock and a hard place right now, but we're trying as a board to get back on track," Kiowa Business Committee acting chairwoman Amber Toppah said.

Toppah, one of the KBC members subject to the 2011 recall election, said the committee is making efforts to fill two vacancies on the hearing board, which as per the tribe's constitution, hears all appeals of election board decisions, including candidate appeals. However, until those seats are filled, the committee will not recognize any elections.

"It's not just a candidate election," she said. "It's a budget election as well as an issues election. There's two years' worth of issues people have presented to the Kiowa Indian Council that have

not been put before the voters. This is actually a large ballot and it needs to be done properly.

"We're not just looking at the short term and it's not just about this current KBC."



Amber Toppah

As per the Kiowa Constitution, issue elections are supposed to be the first Saturday in November. More than 20 issues have been brought before the Kiowa Indian Council since the last recognized election, including a proposal that would allow the Kiowa Casino Operations Authority to refinance the tribe's Red River Casino in Devol, Okla., which is facing a multi-million dollar debt.

Despite multiple attempts, Kiowa Election Board chairman Dwayne Davis could not be reached for comment.

Comanche Code Talkers history shared through global airwaves

DANA AT'TOCKNIE
Native Times

LAWTON, Okla. – Through the occasional CB radio static, Tyler Robinson of the Viking Radio Club is thanked by people from around the world.

Robinson volunteered his Saturday on May 11 to share the history of the Comanche Code Talkers from World Wars I and II. The Viking Radio Club is an amateur radio (Ham) club from Eisenhower Middle School. Robinson had help from his grandfather Bill Burns that day, who is also a Ham radio operator.

Members of the Viking Radio Club and The Lawton-Fort-Sill Amateur Radio Club (W5KS) connected with fellow Ham radio operators worldwide. W5KS initiated the "Special Events Station," and set up a mobile unit from May 8 to 11 on the back patio of the Comanche Nation Museum and Cultural Center (CNMCC).

"We immediately recognized the Special Event Station as an excellent educational opportunity so we were more than happy to assist with this project," Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi, CNMCC executive director, said. "The entire event has

exceeded our expectations. The Ham radio operators have taken the Comanche Code Talker's story global. They've reached other radio operators as far away as England and Venezuela."

The United States military used certain Native American service members in both World Wars to transmit vital messages using their Native languages. These "Code Talkers" could relay and decode information in a tremendously short amount of time and never had their codes broken.

Candy Morgan, CNMCC director of Marketing and Public Programs, said the main comment received during the broadcasts was something they expected – that people didn't know the Comanche's had Code Talkers and were more aware of the Navajo Code Talkers.

"The museum staff prepared all the historical background information for the radio operators. We provided the group with four pages of bullet points about the Comanche Code Talkers, covering everything from before Code Talkers entered the military to their time after the war," Morgan said. "Every time they transmit the words 'Comanche Code Talkers,' they're educating

someone and we couldn't be more thrilled about it."

Paul Goulet of W5KS said for the most part the listeners said they were thankful the Lawton-Fort Sill and Eisenhower radio clubs were willing to pay tribute to what the Comanche Code Talkers did.

"It is a privilege and honor to be able to do this and tell their story," Goulet said. "We brought a great opportunity. We hope we're being very respectful talking of the Comanche Code Talkers."

Each time someone called in, their call sign was recorded and he or she was able to ask questions. Each Ham radio operator who called in will receive a certificate to observe their participation. The certificates are considered collector's items by many Ham radio operators.

The museum staff was also available to answer questions from callers, including two descendants of WWII Code Talkers Larry Saupitty and Charles Chibitty.

According to "Code Talkers – heroes of both World Wars" on www.army.mil, there were two types of code talking. Both used Native American languages, but one used specially coded vocabulary while the other did not.

Examples of the code currently on display at the CNMCC show the military term of "ammo dump" had a Comanche code of "Naa-baaka Utsa," which translates into "bullet place." The military term of "bomber" had a Comanche code of "No?apu Huutsúu," which translates into "pregnant bird." The book "Comanche Code Talkers of World War II," by William C. Meadows offers different Comanche spellings, but the translations remain the same.

"The World War II Comanche Code Talkers played a major role in the D-Day assault. These men were an instrumental part in the allies' success on the European front. Their actions deserve to be known," Wahahrockah-Tasi said. "Code Talking was their specialty but they were Infantry soldiers first and foremost. Their main duty was to establish and repair communication lines during battle. These men are true American heroes and the Comanche National Museum is privileged to tell their story."

A new exhibit titled "Comanche Code of Honor" will be unveiled in the fall. Code talker relics and photographs never seen before will be on display. The open-

ing reception will be at 1:06 p.m. Sept. 26.

Santos Rubio, of W5KS, said they were invited back in the fall and they will have to check if the Viking Radio Club is able to return and help. He said he told the Comanche Business Committee and some Comanche elders of the Navajo's radio station. He said it would be nice to have Comanche code talkers back on air.

"We could even get a class set up and teach how to get on air," Rubio said. "Then next year, have your own Comanche radio class day ... That's our goal, to get people interested in amateur radio."

The Code Talker Recognition Act was passed in 2008 and recognized 13 tribes, which included the Comanche, Kiowa and Choctaw. Sen. John Boehner, Speaker of the House, set a tentative date during Nov. 18-22, 2013 in Washington, DC for the Comanche Code Talker's Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony. However, since the bill passed the tribes to be recognized has grown to 32. Yet, thus far only 12 tribes, including the Comanche, have completed everything needed for the ceremony. CNMCC suggests people contact Boehner, Sen. Jim Inhofe and Congressman

Tom Cole to ask them to proceed with the presentation for the 12 tribes who are ready and have waited five years for the recognition. All of the Comanche Code Talkers have died and only three widows are still living.

The 14 Comanche Code Talkers who served overseas were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame posthumously on Nov. 11, 2011.

The CNMCC is currently showcasing "All Things Comanche – A Numunuu Trilogy." The exhibit features items from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, DC. Portions of the exhibition include personal items from Charles Chibitty, the last surviving Code Talker, and will be on display until Aug. 31. For more information about the CNMCC, visit <http://www.comanche-museum.com/>.

Anyone interested in amateur radio can visit the Lawton-Fort Sill Amateur Radio Club's website at www.w5ks.org. Goulet said amateur radio is a great vehicle to teach science, technology, electronics and math (STEM).

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"Where every day is Indian Day"

DEATHS

Continued from Page 1

Flying eagles behave like drivers texting on their cellphones; they don't look up. As they scan for food, they don't notice the industrial turbine blades until it's too late.

shielded the wind power industry from liability and helped keep the scope of the deaths secret.

"We obviously don't want to see indiscriminate killing of birds from any sort of energy production, yet the administration's ridiculous inconsistencies begs questioning and clarity—clarity on why wind energy producers are let off the hook," said Sen. David Vitter, R-La.

The House Natural Resources Committee, which was at the beginning stages of an investigation, vowed to dig deeper Tuesday.

"There are serious concerns that the Obama administration is not implementing this law fairly and equally," said Jill Strait, a spokeswoman for the committee's chairman, Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash.

Wind power, a pollution-free energy intended to ease global warming, is a cornerstone of President Barack Obama's energy plan. His administration has championed a \$1 billion-a-year tax break to the industry that has nearly doubled the amount of wind power in his first term.

"Climate change is really greatest threat that we see to species conservation in long run," said Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe in an interview with the AP on Monday. "We have an obligation to support well-designed renewable energy."

But like the oil industry under President George W. Bush, lobbyists and executives have used their favored status to help steer U.S. energy policy.

The result is a green industry that's allowed to do not-so-green things.

More than 573,000 birds are killed by the country's wind farms each year, including 83,000 hunting birds such as hawks, falcons and eagles, according to an estimate published in March in the peer-reviewed Wildlife Society Bulletin.

Getting precise figures is impossible because many companies aren't required to disclose how many birds they kill. And when they do, experts say, the data can be unreliable.

When companies voluntarily report deaths, the Obama administration in many cases refuses to make the information public, saying it belongs to the energy companies or that revealing it would expose trade secrets or implicate ongoing enforcement investigations.

Nearly all the birds being killed are protected under federal environmental laws, which prosecutors have used to generate tens of millions of dollars in fines and settlements from businesses, including oil and gas companies, over the past five years.

"We are all responsible for protecting our wildlife, even the largest of corporations," Colorado U.S. Attorney David M. Gaouette said in 2009 when announcing Exxon Mobil had pleaded guilty and would pay \$600,000 for killing 85 birds in five states, including Wyoming.

The large death toll at wind farms shows how the renewable energy rush comes with its own environmental consequences, trade-offs the Obama administration is willing to make in the name of cleaner energy.

"It is the rationale that we have to get off of carbon, we have to get off of fossil fuels, that allows them to justify this," said Tom Dougherty, a long-time environmentalist who worked for nearly 20 years for the National Wildlife Federation in the West, until his retirement in 2008. "But at what cost? In this case, the cost is too high."

The Obama administration has refused to accept that cost when the fossil-fuel industry is to blame. The BP oil company was fined \$100 million for killing and harming migratory birds during the 2010 Gulf oil spill. And PacifiCorp, which operates coal plants in Wyoming, paid more than \$10.5 million in 2009 for electrocuting 232 eagles along power lines and at its substations.

But PacifiCorp also operates wind farms in the state, where at least 20 eagles have been found dead in recent years, according to corporate surveys submitted to the federal government and obtained by the AP. They've nei-

ther been fined nor prosecuted. A spokesman for PacifiCorp, which is a subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, said that's because its turbines may not be to blame.

By not enforcing the law, the administration provides little incentive for companies to build wind farms where there are fewer birds. And while companies already operating turbines are supposed to avoid killing birds, in reality there's little they can do once the windmills are spinning.

Wind farms are clusters of turbines as tall as 30-story buildings, with spinning rotors as wide as a passenger jet's wingspan. Though the blades appear to move slowly, they can reach speeds up to 170 mph at the tips, creating tornado-like vortexes.

Flying eagles behave like drivers texting on their cellphones; they don't look up. As they scan for food, they don't notice the industrial turbine blades until it's too late.

The rehabilitation coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Michael Tincher, said he euthanized two golden eagles found starving and near death near wind farms. Both had injuries he'd never seen before: One of their wings appeared to be twisted off.

"There is nothing in the evolution of eagles that would come near to describing a wind turbine. There has never been an opportunity to adapt to that sort of threat," said Grainger Hunt, an eagle expert who researches the U.S. wind-power industry's deadliest location, a northern California area known as Altamont Pass. Wind farms built there decades ago kill more than 60 per year.

Eagle deaths have forced the Obama administration into a difficult choice between its unbridled support for wind energy and enforcing environmental laws that could slow the industry's growth.

Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, in an interview with the AP before his departure, denied any preferential treatment for wind. Interior Department officials said that criminal prosecution, regardless of the industry, is always a "last resort."

"There's still additional work to be done with eagles and other avian species, but we are working on it very hard," Salazar said. "We will get to the right balance."

Meanwhile, the Obama administration has proposed a rule that would give wind-energy companies potentially decades of shelter from prosecution for killing eagles. The regulation is currently under review at the White House.

The proposal, made at the urging of the wind-energy industry, would allow companies to apply for 30-year permits to kill a set number of bald or golden eagles. Previously, companies were only eligible for five-year permits.

In exchange for the longer timetable, companies agree that if they kill more eagles than allowed, the government could require them to make changes. But the administration recently said it would cap how much a company could be forced to spend on finding ways to reduce the number of eagles its facility is killing.

The Obama administration said the longer permit was needed to "facilitate responsible development of renewable energy" while "continuing to protect eagles."

A similar explanation was given when the Fish and Wildlife Service recently authorized the killing of a single California condor, an endangered species, by a proposed wind farm in California. It also authorized a real estate developer to disturb four birds for its project.

That's because without a long-term authorization to kill eagles, investors are less likely to finance an industry that's violating the law.

Typically, the government would be forced to study the environmental effects of such a regulation before implementing it. In this case, though, the Obama administration avoided a full review, saying the policy was nothing more than an "administrative change."

"It's basically guaranteeing a black box for 30 years, and they're saying 'trust us for oversight.' This is not the path forward," said Katie Umekubo, a renewable energy attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council and a former lawyer for the Fish and Wildlife Service. In private meetings with industry and government leaders in recent months, environmental groups have argued that the 30-year permit needed an in-depth environmental review.

The tactics have created an unexpected rift between the administration and major environmental groups favoring green energy that, until the eagle rule, had often been on the same side as the wind industry.

Those conservation groups that have been critical of the administration's stance from the start, such as the American Bird Conservancy, have often been cut out of the behind-the-scenes discussions and struggled to obtain information on bird deaths at wind farms.

"There are no seats at the exclusive decision-making table for groups that want the wind industry to be held accountable for the birds it kills," said Kelly Fuller, who works on wind issues for the group.

The eagle rule is not the first time the administration has made concessions for the wind-energy industry.

Last year, over objections from some of its own wildlife investigators and biologists, the Interior Department updated its guidelines and provided more cover for wind companies that violate the law.

The administration and some environmentalists say that was the only way to exact some oversight over an industry that operates almost exclusively on private land and generates no pollution, and therefore is exposed to little environmental regulation.

Under both the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the death of a single bird without a permit is illegal.

But under the Obama administration's new guidelines, wind-energy companies — and only wind-energy companies — are held to a different standard. Their facilities don't face additional scrutiny until they have a "significant adverse impact" on wildlife or habitat. But under both bird protection laws, any impact has to be addressed.

The rare exception for one industry substantially weakened the government's ability to enforce the law and ignited controversy inside the Interior Department.

"U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not do this for the electric utility industry or other industries," Kevin Kritz, a government wildlife biologist in the Rocky Mountain region wrote in government records in September 2011. "Other industries will want to be judged on a similar standard."

Experts working for the agency in California and Nevada wrote in government records in June 2011 that the new federal guidelines should be considered as though they were put together by corporations, since they "accommodate the renewable energy industry's proposals, without due accountability."

The Obama administration, however, repeatedly overruled its experts at the Fish and Wildlife Service. In the end, the wind-energy industry, which was part of the committee that drafted and edited the guidelines, got almost everything it wanted.

"Clearly, there was a bias to wind energy in their favor because they are a renewable source of energy, and justifiably so," said Rob Manes, who runs the Kansas office for The Nature Conservancy and who served on the committee. "We need renewable energy in this country."

The government also declared that senior officials in Washington, many of whom are political appointees, must approve any wind-farm prosecution. Normally, law-enforcement agents in the field have the authority to file charges with federal attorneys.

While all big cases are typically cleared through headquarters, such a blanket policy has never been applied to an entire industry, former officials said.

"It's over," Eicher said. "You'll never see a prosecution now."

Not so, says the Fish and Wildlife Service. It said it is investigating 18 bird-death cases involving wind-power facilities, and seven have been referred to the Justice Department. A spokesman for the Justice Department declined to discuss the status of those cases.

Ashe said his agency always made it clear to wind companies that if they kill birds they could still be liable.

"We are not allowing them to do it. They do it," he said of the bird deaths. "And we will successfully prosecute wind companies if they are in significant noncompliance."

But officials acknowledge that their priority is cooperating with companies before wind farms are built to encourage them to be put where they won't harm birds. Once they are built, there is little companies can do

except shut down turbines or remove them — and that means reducing the amount of electricity they generate and violating deals struck with companies purchasing their electricity.

By contrast, there are easy fixes for oil companies and companies operating power lines to stop killing birds. The government often requests companies take such steps before it decides to prosecute.

"We just can't be bringing a criminal case against a company that is up and running if there is not a solution," said Jill Birchell, head of the Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement office in California and Nevada. "We can fine them, but that doesn't help eagles."

In the meantime, birds continue to die. The golden eagle population in the West, prior to the wind energy boom, was declining so much that the government's conservation goal in 2009 was not to allow the eagle population to decrease by a single bird.

The reason boils down to biology. Eagles take five years to reach the age when they can reproduce, and often they only produce one chick a year.

In its defense, the wind-energy industry points out that more eagles are killed each year by cars, electrocutions and poisoning than by turbines.

Ashe noted that the government doesn't require other industrial facilities to disclose the numbers of birds they kill.

Documents and emails obtained by the AP offer glimpses of the problem: 14 deaths at seven facilities in California, five each in New Mexico and Oregon, one in Washington state and another in Nevada, where an eagle was found with a hole in its neck, exposing the bone.

Unlike the estimates, these are hard numbers, proof of deaths, the beginnings of a mosaic revealing the problem.

One of the deadliest places in the country for golden eagles is Wyoming, where federal officials said wind farms have killed more than 50 golden eagles since 2009, predominantly in the southeastern part of the state. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the figures.

At a different facility, Duke Energy's Top of the World wind farm, a 17,000-acre site with 110 turbines located about 35 miles east of Casper, 10 eagles have been killed in the first two years of operation. It is the deadliest of Duke's 15 wind power plants for eagles.

The company's environmental director for renewable energy, Tim Hayes, said Duke is doing all it can, not only because it wants to fix the problem but because it could reduce the company's liability. Two of the company's wind farms in Wyoming — Top of the World and Campbell Hill — are under investigation by the federal government for the deaths of golden eagles and other birds, according to a report the company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission last week. The report was filed after the AP visited a Duke facility in Wyoming and asked senior executives about the deaths.

Duke encourages workers to drive slower so as not to scare eagles from their roosts. They remove dead animals that eagles eat. And they've removed rock piles where the bird's prey lives. They also keep internal data on every dead bird in order to determine whether these efforts are working. The company is also testing radar technology to detect eagles and is considering blaring loud noises to prevent the birds from flying into danger.

The only other option is shutting off the turbines when eagles approach. And even that method hasn't been scientifically proven to work.

At Top of the World, Duke shut down 13 turbines for a week in March, often the deadliest time for eagles. The experiment, the company says, paid off. Not a single eagle was killed that month.

Hayes says the company has repeatedly sought a permit from the federal government to kill eagles legally, but was told it was killing too many to qualify.

When an eagle is killed, Duke employees are also prohibited by law from removing the carcass.

Each death is a tiny crime scene. So workers walk out underneath the spinning rotors and cover the dead bird with a tarp. It lies there, protected from scavengers but decaying underneath its shroud, until someone from the government comes to get it.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Tribe files suit in federal court over water

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) – The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has filed a federal lawsuit to assert its Coachella Valley water rights.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Riverside, alleges that two water districts near Palm Springs overdraw groundwater beneath the tribe's reservation and replenish it with lesser-quality water from the Colorado River.

The lawsuit seeks to assert the tribe's water rights and stop the districts from mismanaging the Upper Whitewater and Garnet Hill sub-basins of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin.

The Desert Water Agency and the Coachella Valley Water District told the Desert Sun they were surprised because they have been talking with the tribe about the issue.

A 2010 regional water management plan says water demand in the desert valley will increase 44 percent by 2030.

Navajos consider tougher sentences

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – Under Navajo Nation law, tribal members can shoplift, abandon a child, obstruct justice, receive stolen property, and commit burglary and fraud without facing any time in jail or paying a fine.

That would change under a proposal by tribal officials to stiffen penalties for numerous crimes. Public hearings are being held across the reservation this week.

The proposal comes more than a decade after the tribe eliminated or reduced penalties for nearly 30 offenses, citing limited resources for penalizing offenders. The tribe that long had struggled with run-down detention facilities has since opened new jails, and tribal lawmakers have confirmed a handful of judges in the past two years, said Law and Order Committee Chairman Edmund Yazzie.

“Back then when the council did that, it was a legitimate reason because of the resources,” he said Thursday. “But now, we don't want to put any more stress on our social services or police officers. Now that we've hired more judges and new detention facilities, it's somewhat in our favor.”

The tribe can prosecute only misdemeanor crimes that carry a maxi-

mum penalty of 1 year and \$5,000 in fines upon conviction, including for homicide, aggravated battery and aggravated arson. Federal authorities can prosecute felony crimes on American Indian reservations that carry much harsher sentences.

While some crimes carried no jail time or fines under tribal law, judges could sentence offenders to probation, community service or restitution. The proposed changes would add rehabilitative treatment, electronic monitoring, payment for detention and “anything that will restore harmony between offender and victim and offender and community,” to the list of possible sentences.

Jail time and fines would be added for some crimes, while the penalties are increased for others.

People who possess liquor on the Navajo Nation, for example, would be fined \$500 on the first offense. The current penalty for a first-time offense is a \$50 fine. The penalty for shoplifting under the proposal would include jail time and fines, and would depend on the value of the goods taken.

A conviction for receiving stolen property could net a punishment of 180 days and a \$500 fine, while contributing to the delinquency of a minor would change from no jail time or fine to a maximum of 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

People found to be unlawfully car-

rying or using deadly weapons could no longer forfeit the weapon and face no other punishment. They would have to give up the weapon and be subjected to time in jail and paying a fine as well. The same goes for those unlawfully selling, possessing or transporting explosives.

Despite having more places to lock people up, the tribe hasn't been able to fully staff at least one new detention facility because of funding shortages. It also is lacking in detoxification centers, mental health facilities or rehabilitative treatment centers.

Only a handful of people showed up at a public hearing Wednesday in Fort Defiance on the proposal to stiffen sentences, and attendance at other hearings has been sparse. Jared Touchin, a spokesman for the tribe's legislative branch said one audience member pointed out that the proposed penalties would be far less severe than under state law for the same crimes. One police officer questioned why punishment for disorderly conduct wasn't more severe than community service.

The task force that developed the proposal held another hearing Thursday in Crownpoint, N.M. Another is scheduled Friday in Shiprock, N.M., and a call-in forum on KTNN is set for the evening of May 30. The Navajo Nation Council ultimately would have to approve any changes.

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., asked about the state of school repairs in his opening remarks before Jewell testified. He said in a school on a reservation in his state is “desperate, desperate” for replacement and deals regularly with leaky roofs, mold, rodent infestations and sewer problems.

“When the wind starts blowing at a certain rate, they have to leave the school because it doesn't meet the safety standards. This can be when it's 20 below zero in northern Minnesota. It puts the Indian education system to shame,” Franken said.

There is a \$1.3 billion backlog on Indian school construction projects, Franken said. Even so, the president did not request new funding for rebuilding schools, “leaving thousands of Indian children to study in crumbling and even dangerous buildings. This is unacceptable,” he said.

Further pressed on the issue by Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., Jewell said her agency “cannot repair and replace schools without money.” She said her agency has made what happens in the classroom and repairs, rather than new school construction, the spending priorities for 2014.

She said she raised the issue of seeking help from philanthropic organizations while in the car on the way to the hearing, but federal law may limit that idea.

“I know a learning environment where people feel respected is more conducive to high-quality learning than to one where children don't feel value,” she said.

Many of the other issues discussed in the hearing had been ongoing issues such as energy production on tribal lands, protecting tribal homelands, law enforcement on reservations and child welfare.

Also in the hearing, Jewell discussed the effect of budget cuts on fighting and preventing wildfires. She said her agency has a “Sophie's Choice” regarding firefighting funding. She said there is not enough money for hazardous fuel reduction, so the focus is on fire suppression “because we don't have enough money to support both.”

In the William Styron novel “Sophie's Choice,” a mother at a Nazi concentration camp is forced to choose which of her two children should live and which should die.

DRILLING

Continued from Page 1

technology has allowed energy companies to gain access to huge stores of natural gas underneath states from Wyoming to New York but has raised widespread concerns about alleged groundwater contamination and even earthquakes.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called the proposed rule a “common-sense update” that increases safety while also providing flexibility and improving coordination with states and Indian tribes.

Current regulations date back to 1982, when the Sony Walkman was considered cutting-edge, Jewell said.

“As we continue to offer millions of acres of America's public lands for oil and gas development, it is important that the public has full confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place,” she said.

But environmental groups said the proposal was weaker than last year's plan and represents a nearly complete capitulation to industry, which had lobbied heavily against the earlier rule. Interior's Bureau of

Land Management has held at least 11 meetings this year with industry groups as well as fracking opponents.

“Comparing today's rule governing fracking on public lands with the one proposed a year earlier, it is clear what happened: the Bureau of Land Management caved to the wealthy and powerful oil and gas industry and left the public to fend for itself,” said Jessica Ennis, a spokeswoman for the environmental group Earthjustice.

The BLM appears to have settled for “shoddy protections peddled by the oil and gas industry,” Ennis said.

Erik Milito, director of upstream and industry operations for the American Petroleum Institute, said the federal rule was unnecessary, since state rules and state-based tools, such as FracFocus, are already in place to ensure responsible drilling.

Changes made since last year “attempt to better acknowledge the state role,” Milito said, but the Obama administration “has yet to answer the question why BLM is moving forward with these requirements in the first place.”

The API and other industry groups urged the administration and Congress to take a close look at

the proposed rule, which is subject to a 30-day comment period before being made final this summer.

Environmental groups said the new rule relies too heavily on FracFocus, a voluntary site that critics say has loose reporting standards and allows companies to avoid disclosure by declaring certain chemicals trade secrets. A report by Harvard Law School last month said the site is plagued by loopholes, adding that government reliance on FracFocus as a regulatory tool is “misplaced or premature.”

Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes defended the use of FracFocus, calling it a potentially valuable tool to make information on fracking operations available to the public.

“Let there be no doubt, what we are interested in is good public disclosures” of information on fracking and chemicals in drilling operations, Hayes said.

If the site does not work as well as officials hope, “we will look for another mechanism to make sure there is information available” to the public about chemicals used in fracking operations, Hayes said.

Besides Colorado, FracFocus is used by Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Okla-

homa, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas and Utah. The site and its operators don't regulate fracking in any way, but rather provide a repository for relevant information.

Jewell, who took office last month, said she expects to be criticized by both industry and environmental groups. An industry claim that federal regulation is unnecessary “ignores that fracking is taking place on an estimated 90 percent” of wells drilled on federal and Indian lands, Jewell said. Domestic production from more than 92,000 oil and gas wells on public lands accounts for about 13 percent of the nation's natural gas production and 5 percent of U.S. oil production, the Interior Department said.

Similarly, environmental groups who say “fracking is dangerous and should be curtailed full-stop” ignore that “fracking has been done safely for decades,” said Jewell, a former petroleum engineer who has worked on fracked wells.

The new rule will “help ensure that human health and security are protected,” she said.

The proposal includes a provision allowing the BLM to defer to states and tribes that already have standards in place that meet or exceed those proposed by the federal rule.

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Tribal leader wants boycott of South Dakota city

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) – The chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe is calling for an economic boycott of Chamberlain after the school board in the southeastern South Dakota city refused to allow a tribal honoring song during Sunday’s graduation ceremony.

Chairman Brandon Sazue also has called for the withdrawal of millions of dollars of tribal funds from a bank that declined to condemn the school district, and demanded the high school return an eagle feather staff, the Argus Leader reported.

“I think they no longer deserve it,” he said.

The school board voted 6-1 Monday night to reject a request to allow a tribal honoring song, saying that a feathering ceremony the night before graduation honors tribal students and that the commencement exercise should recognize academic achievements rather than cultural ties.

About one-third of the 900 students in the school district are American Indian.

Sazue said he does not know who gave the eagle feather staff to the school district years ago but that the Crow Creek tribe wants to take custody of it until tribal officials can identify the previous owner. Superintendent Debra Johnson said the school will not give up the staff.

“In talking to Native Americans in our community, the staff was made to honor our students that we have in the district. By giving it away we would be abandoning that commitment,” she said.

Sazue said he is speaking with other Tribal Council members about his proposal to withdraw tribal money from Wells Fargo Bank, which declined to take the tribe’s side in the honoring song dispute.

“We have got millions going in there from our casino, housing, the school and tribe,” he said.

Wells Fargo spokeswoman Staci Schiller said bank leaders are puzzled as to why they have been drawn into the dispute.

“We’re a leading lender to tribal nations,” she said, but “this isn’t our issue. We shouldn’t be part of the story. This is an issue between the school board and the tribe. Our role as a financial services company is to provide financial services, not get in between two parties in a dispute.”

Sazue said he was already boycotting businesses in Chamberlain, a city of about 2,400 people, and urging the tribe and individual tribal members to do the same.

“I love Chamberlain. I went to school there. I shop there,” he said. “But right now I’m boycotting it, because of the school board’s decision. How do you make change? You make change by action. I will boycott until they let our kids have an honor song.”

A drum group plans to set up outside the school on Sunday and perform the honoring song for Chamberlain’s new graduates as they leave the commencement ceremony, Police Chief Joe Huttmacher said. He said he talked to organizers and does not anticipate any problems.

LAW

Continued from Page 1

which operates a hospital and eight outpatient clinics that serve about 150,000 people in northeastern Oklahoma.

Grim said there is concern among tribal governments that some people eligible to receive health care services through the IHS will not meet the ACA’s definition for which American Indians are exempt from the penalty.

In Oklahoma, almost 483,000 of the state’s 3.75 million residents identify themselves as Native Americans, or nearly 13 percent of the state’s population, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Only California has a higher number.

Tulsa County has the largest number of residents who identify themselves as

Native American – 61,000. Oklahoma County is home to almost 46,000 people who self-identify as Native American.

There are approximately 560 federally recognized tribes in the U.S., and 39 of them are based in Oklahoma. Tribal officials said Native Americans who are not citizens of one of the tribes could potentially be required to enroll in health insurance exchanges and carry insurance.

“It is a potential problem,” Grim said.

Republican Rep. Tom Cole, a member of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, said he was aware of the concerns.

“This could lead to some tribal citizens being required to purchase insurance or face penalties even though they are covered by IHS,” he said in a statement to The Associated Press. Cole is one of two federal legislators who are members of a federally

recognized tribe. He would not say whether he would sponsor a bill to address the issue.

Mickey Peercy, executive director of health for the Choctaw Nation, said the solution involves making the new health care law’s definition of American Indian consistent.

“They’re messing with the definition of who’s an Indian,” Peercy said. “It needs to stay what it is.”

Peercy said the Choctaw Nation, which serves about 50,000 people with a hospital and outpatient clinics in southeastern Oklahoma, will be able to adapt to the ACA’s provisions.

“We can bend and roll with the Affordable Care Act,” he said. But the changes could be costly for non-tribal patients who have been receiving tribal health care services.

“It negatively impacts lots and lots of folks with uncompensated care,” he said.

COMMENTARY

S. Dakota Public Radio flunks on two counts



TIM GIAGO

It is ironic that when experienced reporters familiar with Indian country are replaced by new reporters or broadcasters with little or no experience in reporting from Indian country, when given the opportunity to enlighten their audience on the true history between historical and fictional events, fail the test.

A classic example of oversight happened last week. A reporter for SDPR talked about the incident at Chamberlain, SD where the school board was deliberating whether to allow an honoring song for the Indian graduates or not. The answer to that question was still in the air when the report was made. Well, as it turns out the school board voted not to allow the honoring song with only one school board member dissenting.

They said it was not in the tradition of the school. First one must consider the fact that the enrollment of Indians at the school is a fairly recent happening and

it was overt racism that kept Native Americans from enrolling in the first place. So therefore to say that it is not in the tradition of the school is clearly wrong because the Native students had not been enrolled long enough to become a part of or to develop their own traditions at the school.

This could have been pointed out by the broadcaster at South Dakota Public Radio, but it was not.

The second sin by SDPR happened during that same broadcast. The broadcaster announced that a celebration was happening that Wednesday in Pierre to honor L. Frank Baum, the author of the Wizard of Oz. Now the reporter clearly had an opportunity to inform and educate his listeners, but he did not. Allow us to do it.

In January of 1891, just six days after the horrific massacre of Lakota men, women and children at Wounded Knee, the editor of the Aberdeen Pioneer wrote,

“The Pioneer has before declared that our only safety depends upon the total extermination [sic] of the Indians. Having wronged them for centuries we had better, in order to protect our civilization, follow it up by one more wrong and wipe these untamed and untamable creatures from the face of the earth. In this lies future safety for our settlers and the soldiers who are under incompetent commands. Otherwise, we may expect

future years to be as full of trouble with the redskins as those have been in the past.”

The man who wrote that editorial was none other than L. Frank Baum, the man who was about to be celebrated in Pierre. If this is not a call for genocide we don’t know what is. To the Lakota, to honor this man would be akin to the Jews celebrating the birthday of Adolf Hitler. Dissenters may groan and moan over this comparison, but a call for genocide is a call for genocide and just because the call is about the Lakota and in the mind of many white South Dakotans, therefore acceptable, this doesn’t make it any less a call for genocide against a race of people just as Hitler called for the mass extermination of the Jews.

The media should be used to educate and inform and South Dakota Public Radio needs to educate its reporters and broadcasters that there is also an audience that is clearly Lakota and to announce a celebration for the man who called for their extermination without bothering to tell the whole story is appalling. It is damaging to the Lakota and damaging to the intelligence of the non-Indians who know the true story.

This is an editorial by Tim Giago, Nanwica Kciji, for Native Sun News. Giago can be reached at unitysodak1@knology.net

Cherokee Nation Councilman will seek re-election

Councilman Don Garvin represents District 4, Muskogee/McIntosh Counties. He was elected by the Council every term to co-chair the Education Committee, served as Secretary of the Tribal Council for six years and is seated on all Standing Committees with almost 100% attendance.

Don grew up on a working ranch. He is a descendant of Obediah Bengé and Margaret Blair, George Blair and Nancy Blythe who came to Indian Territory on the “Trail of Tears. He and his wife Jo Elaine have been married 53 years. They attend Central Baptist Church in Muskogee where Don serves as an ordained Deacon.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served as a Captain in the Air Force Reserves. Garvin is a graduate of U.S. Infantry Officers School and holds a Masters Degree in Mathematics Education.

Years of experience and skills as a classroom mathematics teacher, a coach, successful real estate broker and building contractor has served to make Don an effective councilman on behalf of all fellow Cherokee citizens.

His tireless efforts as a councilman resulted in the Three Rivers Health Center which is the largest tribally owned health care facility in the U.S. He takes great pride in being part of a team that established car tags inside the CN boundary, contributed over a million dollars to the Rural Fire Departments, helped 3,348 families build or purchase their own homes, established the CN Youth choir, dedicated 1% of all new construction to Cherokee Art, building the new Veterans Center, acquired the Hastings Hospital, more than 23,000 college students have received scholarships,



raised dividend from CNE by 5% for Contract Health, and currently 2,800 Cherokees on scholarship are enrolled in the college of their choice.

Councilman Garvin stated, “We must continue to improve our health care system, care for our elders and veterans, and provide diversified educational opportunities. Our future depends on preserving our language, traditions, and safeguarding our sovereignty. I will remain an independent voice on the Council for all Cherokee people.”

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Office will begin accepting applications for Executive Assistant. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will serve as an assistant to the Kiowa Business Committee and KBC Chairman. The incumbent is responsible for a wide variety of special assignments, most of which involve confidential, sensitive and/or complex issues which can have a significant impact on the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Must possess an Associates Degree (A.A.) or equivalent from a two-year college or technical school; or six months to one year related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a Valid Oklahoma drivers license. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and drug testing. EOE UP PL-93-638

Re-Advertisement-SECURITY SUPERVISOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting applications for the Security Supervisor. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Experience required in Security or Law Enforcement Field. All training documents, license or certificates are required. Knowledge of methods and objectives of Security work; communicating effectively; minimum typing skills and some knowledge of computers. Familiarization with Local, State, Tribal and Federal Laws. **REQUIREMENTS:** No prior felony convictions. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug test. EOE UP PL-93-638

DIRECTOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Transportation department will begin accepting applications for Transportation Director. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall administration of the Tribal Transportation Program grant and all applicable laws. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Preferred-Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related engineering field or Masters Degree in Civil Engineering or Registered Professional Engineer. Minimum-Bachelors Degree, three (3) years experience managing the design, construction, or maintenance of a transportation system. Two(2) years supervisory experience of at least five(5) full time employees. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a Valid Oklahoma Drivers License. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and Drug Testing. EOE UP PL-93-638

POSITIONS CLOSE: May 31, 2013 C.O.B.

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DISTRICT COURT ASSOCIATE JUDGE

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for the position of District Court Associate Judge. For a complete job description; please visit the Pawnee Nation website at www.pawneenation.org. To apply, submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Vi Wills, Executive Secretary, PO Box 470, Pawnee, OK 74058. Applications may be emailed to vwills@pawneenation.org. For questions regarding the position; please call Suzie Kanuho, Court Clerk at (918) 762-3011 or e-mail at skanuho@pawneenation.org. The deadline to apply is 5 pm on Friday, May 24, 2013.

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Bacone College seeks full-time faculty American Indian Studies

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Pawnee Wellness Center, Pawnee, OK

June 1st, 2013

Gourd Dancing ~ 2:00 p.m.

Speakers before supper

Supper break ~ 5:30 p.m.

Speakers after supper

Grand Entry ~ 7:00 p.m.

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For more information please contact:

Helen Norris 918.762.3776 or

June Hamilton 918.306.1148



EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@native-times.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council

(NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrrc.org

MAY 24, 25 & 26

49th Annual Delaware Pow Wow Fred Fall-Leaf Memorial Pow Wow Grounds, 401050 W. 600 Road, Copan, OK 74022 For more information, call Elaine Clinton at 918/531-2526 or e-mail clintonj88@yahoo.com.

MAY 25

All Nations Frybread Showdown Contest, 11 a.m. at 1400 Crad-duck Road, Ada (at old K-Mart parking lot). Public invited. Entry fee is \$20 per person, \$5 per vote for the people's favorite choice award. First place winner prize receives a double propane grill. An all-you-can-eat frybread contest will also be held. Also available, face painting, a moon bounce, clowns, a cake walk, turtle race and concession stand. For more info, contact Couita Nucosee at 580.320.6179 or couita@wildblue.net.

The 2013 Chilocco Reunion Prep-Day, originally scheduled for May 4, is rescheduled for May 25 due to inclement weather. Participants should bring their own work tools and mop. The 2013 reunion is May 30 - June 2. Everyone is invited to the free powwow beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31.

Yellowfish Descendants Dance 2:00 pm at Comanche Community Center, Apache, Okla. Info call Edward Yellowfish 405-203-4741 or email: edwardyellowfish@sbcglobal.net

MAY 25-26

Annual for the People Powwow, Boone County Fairgrounds, Columbia, MO. Admission \$3 adults, School Age \$1, Elders & Preschool FREE. More info call 816-679-0695 or donamckinney@swbell.net.

MAY 29 – JUNE 2

Battle on the Hardwood All-Indian 7th/8th & High School Basketball Tournament. Entry deadline May 13. More info call 918-652-5405, lvme4@yahoo.com or www.dogsoldiers4jesuschrist.org

MAY 30-JUNE 1

Miami Nation Tribal Powwow, NEO College Arena, Miami, OK. Free event. Gourd Dancing, shell shaker contest, color guard presentation with the Grand Entry. Food and merchandise vendors on hand. For more information: 918-542-1445.

MAY 31

Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 1

Birthday Dance honoring Henry A Lieb, Jr. at Ponca Tribe Cultural Center, White Eagle, Okla. War dance at 2pm; Meal at 5pm; Soldier Dance at 6:30pm and Gourd Dance at 7pm. Special contests! For more info call Kinsel Lieb 580-304-9440

Seneca Indian School Reunion, Wyandotte Tribal Office Title VI Cafeteria

JUNE 3

Charity Golf Tourney for The Right Path, providing therapeutic horseback riding and cart driving for special needs children. Donations tax deductible. Single player \$80, Foursome \$320. Registration begins at 11:15 am, Cushing Country Club. More info call 918-607-5796 or rightpathacademy@sbcglobal.net

JULY 5

Pawnee Nation Health Fair, 9am – 2pm, Pawnee Nation Gym. Info call Brian or Adrian, 918-762-4641 ext. 1 or bknott@pawneenation.org or Adrian@pawneenation.org

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

JUNE 8

Locust Grove Class of 1988 Reunion. Potluck lunch, noon at Snowdale State Park Pavillion, Salina, Okla. and 6pm dinner at Cherokee Casino West Siloam Springs. All classmates, family and friends welcome. For more info, call Lisa Hicks, (918) 708-5838 or email LGclassof88@gmail.com.

JUNE 14-15

Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For times and more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

JUNE 14-16

Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow

with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-choerokee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

JUNE 15

18th annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Games at OWU in Bartlesville. The girls game begins at 6 pm and the boys follow at around 8pm. For more information contact Sharon Lee or Laryn Bierig at 918.642.3162

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JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribes.com Website:www.peoriatribes.com

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website:www.tonkawatribe.com

JUNE 29, 2013

Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

Tribe wants locally produced food on area tables

PAUL SRUBAS
Press-Gazette Media

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) – The Oneida Tribe of Indians’ foray into establishing a food hub in their community is proving to be so successful that they’d like to see it spread throughout the county.

Products that are grown and processed on Oneida land have been feeding the tribe’s elementary students and elderly for some time now, and the tribe has been making a push to make them available for retail sale to the public since December, when the Oneida Market opened in a wing of the Oneida One Stop on Packerland Drive.

Food hubs have become popular all over the country as a means to keep locally-grown food local for the benefit of both the farmer and consumer. The Oneidas’ operation is a classic example of the aggregated system that integrates the process from sowing the seed to cooking the food.

“We call it the Oneida Community Integrated Food System,” said Joanie Buckley, the tribe’s internal services division director.

The tribe has farms and an orchard on which it produces table crops like corn, beans and squash, bison, Black Angus and Galloway beef, chicken, eggs and apples, and it has a cannery operation that processes food, producing such things

as apple jams and jellies and corn flour, canned corn and dehydrated corn.

Aside from making healthy food available to its people, the tribe uses the agricultural operations and cannery to teach members the skills needed for the work. And it has retail outlets to make the product available to the public.

“You always hear (on national news) about issues with foods coming from other places or the economic drive you see in California, where they’ve been able to establish food economies,” said tribal vice chairman Greg Matson. “You can see an improvement for the environment, health issues, jobs, the economy, the whole overall picture.

“The initiative has always been there for the farmer to eat what he grows, but beyond that, the economics of it is taking him out of the game,” Matson said. “If you can keep it more local and get more involved on the ownership side, there’ll be an improvement on everything, and it cuts back on the need to transport everything.”

The Oneida Community Integrated Food System started out as a discussion about poverty and health issues on the reservation, Buckley said. It evolved into a recognition that, through better food, the tribe could help reduce diabetes and other health issues and

help train community members to build practices themselves, for home vegetable gardens and other means, she said.

The latest development in the Oneida system is the Oneida Market, which not only sells organic, locally-produced foods but also loose tea and other items. Some of the products are coming from local farms that aren’t Oneida, and the tribe would like to see that increased, Buckley said.

“We’ve been talking about how to work collaboratively with surrounding farmers, with 4-H groups, Brown County, the UW-Extension, in this corridor, to grow the products. ... Put it in the outlets, whether it’s the farm-to-school program, the elderly centers, retail stores or somebody’s little farmer’s market,” she said. “That’s kind of the concept we’re looking at: Community gardeners becoming producers and then selling locally.”

Some of that expansion and collaboration occurred recently when the tribe partnered with Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College and some other groups to put on a three-day summit at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center on a variety of approaches to strengthen communities through agriculture.

Experts from as nearby as the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska gave presentations to

tribal representatives from around the country on topics ranging from establishing community gardens to growing switch grass for bio fuel.

Buckley said the proliferation of farmer’s markets, community-supported agriculture agreements and even the efforts of people trying to start the New Leaf Market Cooperative show that public interest in promoting and consuming locally grown food is rising.

“New Leaf is totally interested in working with them,” said Karen Early, vice president of New Leaf and the nutrition education coordi-

nator for the UW-Cooperative Extension Service. “Any kind of food hub is beneficial for everybody in that it stimulates the economy, supports growers and gives consumers access to fresher produce.”

Oneida efforts to expand its hub into the community will dovetail with New Leaf’s efforts to bring food producers and food consumers closer together, she said. New Leaf wants to develop a food hub in downtown Green Bay.

“We’ll be working with them,” she said.



PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA | COURTESY

Oneida Market supervisor Crystal Meltz measures out blended tea for customer Sarah Phillips at the store May 13 in Green Bay. Products that are grown and processed on Oneida land have been feeding the tribe’s elementary students and elderly for some time now, and the tribe has been making a push to make them available for retail sale to the public since December.



OTOE MISSOURIA TRIBE | COURTESY

Participants at the OICOA Cook’s Training held at the Ben E. Keith Foods in Oklahoma City. The two day training was created and coordinated by the Otoe-Missouria Tribe’s Title VI Director Fatima Pina. Representatives from the Cherokee Nation, Iowa Tribe, Pawnee Nation, Ponca Tribe, Wichita & Affiliated Tribes and Wyandotte Nation attended the training.

Better meals keep elders healthy: Title IV cooks get crash course in nutrition

HEATHER PAYNE
Otoe-Missouria Tribe Media Release

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Ben E. Keith Foods, Kelley Brokerage and Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging hosted a two day training for Title VI Nutrition programs in the state recently.

The training was designed to educate cooks and program directors about the Nutritional requirements of Title VI Part A funding. Title VI Nutrition programs are federally funded feeding programs for Native American elderly. Most tribes in Oklahoma offer these programs to their elders.

The idea for the training was the brainchild of Otoe-Missouria Title VI Director Fatima Pina, RD/LD.

“From my experience, most of Title VI programs do not have a dietitian on hand to provide day- to-day training and guidance to the cooks and kitchen staff,” Pina says. “Often cooks hired for Title VI either have basic cooking skills or cooking experience in a restaurant-type kitchen. Either way, they do not have knowledge of the Title VI Nutrition regulations. These regulations have to be taught to them by the program’s director or the tribe’s dietician. In all hon-

esty, kitchen work is hard--cooking, cleaning, servings, inventory, shopping for groceries and storage. It leaves the cooks no time to investigate and further advance their knowledge of the nutrition regulations rules.”

Several tribes sent representatives to the training including the Cherokee Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Iowa Tribe, Pawnee Nation, Ponca Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and the Wyandotte Tribe.

The training covered basic nutrition education, health challenges in the elderly, diseases and how to prevent them or alleviate them with nutrition, sanitation, portion control, ordering, menu planning and seasoning, and meal costing. Pina says she believes that by educating staff about Title VI regulations, elders will be healthier.

“If we empower them with the knowledge of Title VI part A Nutrition regulations and requirements, they will understand how important their role is in keeping our elders healthy and compliant with the funding regulations,” Pina says. “There are good scientific reasons behind the regulations.”

The Native American population has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the United States. Pina says

that regularly serving high carbohydrate foods would be dangerous and against what she and the other Title VI programs are designed to do.

Elders who are used to eating particular foods may not appreciate the healthy foods offered through the Title VI program. This was noted as a challenge by all participants. Ramona Horsechief, head cook for the Pawnee Nation, agreed that the biggest challenge she faced when she started working for the program two years ago was changing the mindset of the participants.

“They are used to meat and potatoes,” Horsechief says. “They are that older generation where it’s hard to change their minds and change their mindset which is meat and potatoes, saturated fats and fry bread. Pawnees, they like boiled meat, boiled potatoes and fry bread and corn. Those are all starches. Those turn straight to sugar. My goal with working there is to sustain as many lives as long as I can, because I was taught to respect our elders and I take that to heart.”

Pina believes that training cooks is vital to changing the mindset of elders so that they can understand the purpose and goals of the Title VI program.

“The cooks are the main

core to Title VI program,” Pina says. “They are the ones who witness the elders throwing half of their plates or trays in the trash because they do not like the meal offered. They are the ones that hear the elders requests of adding or removing certain items from the menu. They are the ones that will change the menu when their supervisors are out of town if they don’t understand why certain foods are only offered periodically.”

Amanda Goodman, Title VI Director for the Ponca Tribe, says that while her program is in compliance with the funding requirements, she still had questions about reasons for certain regulations.

“It answered some questions that I had about Title VI,” Goodman says. “You hear from so many people that you can do this, but no, you can’t do that. It clarified some of the questions that I had. The one thing that really stuck out for me was the whole “My Plate” portion size guideline. Yes, we know that peas and corn have starch, but yet we are serving them with mashed potatoes. It just wasn’t as enforced as it should be.”

Other attendees were interested in learning more about how the body ages and the important effects food

can have on various diseases. Crystal Johnson, AOA Assistant Cook for the Wichita & Affiliated Tribes, says she was anxious to use what she learned at the training.

“I know that everyone has different diets,” Johnson says. “There are renal diets and some that require more B12 than others. And that older folks lose certain nutrients on a daily basis that need to be replaced with food. And that their digestive system isn’t really working as it was when they were younger so we need to add more fiber. The stuff I learned today, I’m going to really spread the word. I love working for my tribe and anything I can learn and take back for the benefit of everyone, I will.”

One of the more peppery presentations was given by the Ben E. Keith spice representative. Participants learned about the difference in spices and blends as well as how important seasoning can be when introducing and serving nutritious foods.

“You can sneak things in and give the food flavor,” Sherry Harkey, head cook for the Iowa Tribe, says. “Mainly, I can do more with spices to get people trying new things.”

Harkey also expressed one other interesting thing she learned at the training, which was expressed by all the oth-

er participants as well.

“I learned that Dawn and bleach turns into mustard gas!” Harkey exclaimed.

According to Mike Rose, Ben E. Keith non-food specialist, Dawn dishwashing liquid contains ammonia. When combined in the right balance, ammonia and bleach can turn into chlorine gas - a dangerous concoction that can sicken humans and animals.

In addition to Pina, Shannon Andrews with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe presented at the training as did Sharon Lewis from Kelley Brokerage and Art Hamilton and Mike Wall with Ben E. Keith. With such a positive response from all the participants, Pina hopes to hold the training again in the fall or early winter.

“There is so much information that I would like to have shared but we didn’t have time,” Pina says. “Since I put this training together on a zero budget, if we do it in the fall I would like to have more sponsors and no charge guest speakers. Overall, I think this training will help Title VI staff to understand their responsibilities to both the funding agency and their elders. We have a duty to protect the health of our elders by offering them nutritious foods so they can live long healthy lives.”

- **Judge ‘grounds’ Seneca-Cayuga Chief**
- **Cherokee standout makes WNBA roster**
- **Will Disney’s new Tonto be better?**



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NATIVE TIMES

MAY 31, 2013



KRISTINA BARKER | RAPID CITY JOURNAL | AP PHOTO

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

Kim Malsam-Rysdon wrote in a motion to dismiss filed May 20 that there is no evidence Malsam-Rysdon made deliberate choices that violated tribal members' rights.

"The complaint is devoid of any specific facts that (DSS) took any action pursuant to an alleged unconstitutional policy or custom," a memorandum supporting the motion to

The Oglala Sioux and Rosebud Sioux tribes, along with three Native American parents, sued Malsam-Rysdon, as well as DSS employee LuAnn Van Hunnik, Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo and 7th Judicial Circuit Court Presiding Judge Jeff Davis. Van Hunnik, Vargo and Davis have also filed motions to dismiss.

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 4



CHRISTINA ROSE | NATIVE SUN NEWS

Jessie Taken Alive addresses the crowd at the Indian Child Welfare Summit last week in Rapid City, S.D. about the desperate need to resolve the ICWA crisis.

MIAMI (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service has hit the Miccosukee Indians with a \$170 million bill for failing to report and withhold taxes from its distribution of gambling profits to tribal citizens.

The IRS also sent bills totaling \$58 million to hundreds of the South Florida tribe's citizens for failure to pay personal taxes on those distributions from 2000 to 2005.

See TAX on Page 4

A bronze statue of a Marine in Vietnam, holding a rifle and a large, curved, leaf-like object, standing next to a tall American flagpole. The statue is positioned on a rocky base, and the American flag is visible in the background.

The National Native American Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1995 at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wisconsin. Mounted on a red granite base, the sculpture depicts a Native American Soldier in jungle fatigues holding a rifle in one hand and an Eagle Feather Staff in the other. The names, rank, home of record, date of casualty-how they died, and tribal affiliation of all Native American Indians who perished during the Vietnam War are etched into two of the four black granite panels skirting the statue's base.

“Every Memorial Day we honor the men and women who have served our country in the armed forces, and today’s legislation would allow for construction of a memorial on the National Mall so that people from across the country can honor the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices of our Native American veterans,” Senator Schatz said. “Per capita, Native Americans, including American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, serve at a higher rate in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans and have served in all of the Nation’s wars since the Revolutionary War. Our Native veterans have sacrificed their lives for this country and it is important that we recognize their bravery and patriotism with a fitting memorial.”

Oklahoma lawmakers plan \$45 million tornado relief

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Oklahoma lawmakers began the process of appropriating \$45 million in emergency funds May 21 to help pay for recovery efforts after deadly tornadoes raked central Oklahoma.

Separate committees in the state House and Senate approved a plan to dip into the state’s Rainy Day Constitutional Reserve Fund about 24 hours after a massive tornado struck Moore, killing at least 24 people. A separate tornado May 19 left two dead in Shawnee.

The money would be deposited in

the State Emergency Fund to either help the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management match disaster aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or to pay costs not covered by FEMA, said Sen. Clark Jolley, R-Edmond, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

FEMA generally pays 75 percent of the cost of disaster recovery, and state and local governments split the remaining costs, officials said.

“All of us are very conscious of what has happened. We’ve got an issue we’ve got to resolve,” Jolley said while urging colleagues to sign off on the proposal.

Rep. Jason Nelson, R-Oklahoma

City, told House members the funds would help pay for costs related to damage caused by the tornadoes but could also be used to defray the costs of other natural disasters.

Jolley described the emergency appropriation as a “ballpark figure,” noting officials may not know the full cost of storm recovery for more than a year.

The reserve fund appropriation must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the House and Senate following Gov. Mary Fallin’s emergency declaration for 16 Oklahoma counties on Sunday. Without the emergency declaration, accessing the reserve

fund money would require approval by three-quarters of the Legislature.

A spokesman for state finance secretary Preston Doerflinger said the governor and Doerflinger support the appropriation.

“There are sure to be critical needs in infrastructure repair and first responder overtime, among other costs,” spokesman John Estus said.

Jolley indicated the measure could be brought up before the full Senate as early as Wednesday.

The emergency funding legislation received preliminary approval after supporters of two unrelated capital funding projects –

the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture and American Indian Cultural Center and Museum – asked that they be set aside until next year so lawmakers could concentrate on tornado recovery.

“We need to be thinking first of our fellow Oklahomans who have suffered from this devastating disaster,” Bob Blackburn, the executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society which is behind the OKPOP museum, said in a statement.

Jolley said the cultural center’s board of directors made a similar request, “that we not act on it this year.”

Choctaw Nation to donate fuel proceeds to tornado victims

LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation Media Release

DURANT, Okla. – The people of the Choctaw Nation are donating fuel proceeds from May 24th through May 30th from all its travel plazas to the Salvation Army tornado relief efforts. The Choctaw Nation also offers its prayers to those working to recover from this devastation.

Along with fuel proceeds, donations for disaster relief will be accepted at the Travel Plazas as well as in the lobby of the Tribal Headquarters at 529 N. 16th in Durant. Everyone is urged to contribute to this worthy cause.

Choctaw Travel Plazas are located in Atoka, Broken Bow, Durant (East and West), Wilburton, Garvin, Heavener, Grant, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, and Pocola.

“Oklahomans have always been resilient,” says Chief Gregory E. Pyle, “and the Choctaws have helped set a foundation for that resilience. Since the Trail of Tears in 1831 until now, we have had our ups and downs, and have always been strong, recovering from adversity thanks to the grace of God and support of our loved ones.

“The storms may have taken their toll, but it is not enough to break the spirit of the people of this state,” he continued. “We are blessed to live in this great state and committed to supporting our communities in good times and in these times of need.”

A number of tribal personnel were on-site at the Moore location to assist in the initial efforts following the storm and others stand ready to help as additional resources are needed.

Oklahoma universities join forces to produce disaster relief T-shirts

TULSA, Okla. - The University of Tulsa has partnered with the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University to utilize logos from all three institutions to develop the 2013 Oklahoma Disaster Relief Shirt. Net proceeds from the sale of the shirts will be donated directly to the United Way to aid disaster relief and recovery efforts across the state of Oklahoma.

After deadly tornadoes impacted areas across the state on May 19-20, the University of Oklahoma implemented a benefit merchandise program for a third straight year to benefit affected Oklahomans. This year’s T-shirt - featuring Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Tulsa logos - will sell for \$19.95 and will be available through each university’s online store at shop.tulsa-hurricane.com, shop.soonersports.com and shop.okstate.com - all operated by Fanatics. A long sleeve version of the shirt is also available for \$24.95.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

As a Cowboy, Hurricane and Sooner fan, you can do your part to help the Oklahomans that have been affected by the recent devastation by supporting those in need with this 2013 Disaster Relief Efforts tee. All proceeds from the sale of each T-shirt will go to The United Way.

Both shirts will be produced by Box Seat Clothing Company, an official OU licensee. Flat-rate shipping is available for only \$5.99 regardless of the quantity of shirts ordered.

The shirts will only be available online to help ensure the United Way realizes the greatest benefit from the sales of this one-of-kind shirt design.

The United Way works directly with agencies such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army that have been providing round-the-clock assistance to Oklahomans in need. Services provided include opening and operating shelters, case management for those experiencing loss, mobile feeding sites for those working in disaster-affected areas, and more. Disaster relief efforts are provided free of charge and are entirely supported by financial contributions.



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Judge ‘grounds’ Seneca-Cayuga Chief over election dispute

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

MIAMI, Okla. – Thanks to an ongoing election dispute, a Bureau of Indian Affairs judge has issued a court order to prevent an Oklahoma chief from carrying out the duties of his office.

Magistrate Jon Douthitt with the Court of Indian Offenses signed a writ of mandamus on May 20, preventing Seneca-Cayuga Chief LeRoy Howard from conducting business on

behalf of the tribe for 10 days unless he recognizes the winners of the tribe’s contested 2012 election as members of the Seneca-Cayuga government.

The June 2012 election was for Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Business Committee member, member, Fourth Business Committee member, Second Grievance Committee member, Fourth Grievance Committee member, Third Claims Committee member and Fourth Claims Committee member. The election was



Chief LeRoy Howard

set aside after the tribe’s election board determined an absentee ballot was fraudulently cast, prompting the board to set aside all 70

absentee votes cast, a move overruled by the Court of Indian Offenses earlier this year.

A rebuttal hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 28. Howard could not be reached for comment.

The writ comes on the heels of a hand-written order issued by Douthitt on May 15, once again upholding the 2012 election results.

“The following order is effective in the captioned case and in case numbers CIV-12-M20 and CIV-12-M23 pursuant to the opinion and

correction opinion of the Appellate Division of the Court of Indian Offenses,” he wrote. “The Seneca-Cayuga election of June 2, 2012, is validated and the elected hold those offices effective as of June 2, 2012; all elections held during pendency of appeals are void and of no effect...LeRoy Howard remains chief.”

The tribe, headquartered near Grove, Okla., has an enrollment of about 5,000 citizens and a separate election scheduled for June 1.

Enbridge Energy plans pipeline into Oklahoma

CUSHING, Okla. (AP) – EnbridgeEnergyCo.ispreparing to construct a 600-mile pipeline that will carry crude oil from Illinois to Cushing, and the project promises to bring several hundred jobs.

The company says most of the line will parallel an existing Enbridge pipeline right of way.

Enbridge officials say the pipeline will start in Flanagan, Ill., run south through Missouri and Kansas, until it reaches its terminus at Cushing.

The Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise reports that construction is to begin within the next few months. The work will include seven pump stations and the line will be able to move 600,000 barrels per day.

Enbridge is working with the Osage Nation to fill about 200 jobs for the project.

Murrow Indian Home hosting benefit powwow

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – The Murrow Indian Children’s Home would like to invite everyone to their 2nd Annual Benefit Pow-wow and Silent Auction. The event is sponsored by the Murrow Indian Children’s Home and hosted by The Center for American Indians.

The pow-wow will be held Saturday, June 29, 2013 at the Bacone College Palmer Center, Muskogee, OK. Head staff for this year’s event is: Thorpe Sine, Head Man; Savannah Waters, Head Lady; Eli Crowels, Head Gourd Dancer; Tim Washee, Head Singer; Choogie Kingfisher, Master of Ceremonies; Robbie Anquo, Arena Director; and the Cherokee Color Guard.

The event will begin with Gourd Dancing at 2:00 p.m., Supper Break at 5:00 p.m., another session of Gourd Dancing at 6:00 PM, Grand Entry at 7:00 p.m., and Closing Song at 11:00 p.m.

Contest dancing will take place after Grand Entry and will consist of the following categories; Men’s Combined, Women’s Combined, and Tiny Tots. All contestants must be in the Grand Entry.

Everyone in attendance will have an opportunity to participate in raffles, cake walks, 50/50, or put their bids in on the Silent Auction items. The Silent Auction will consist of traditional, handmade American Indian arts/crafts, gift certificates, gift baskets and more!

Concessions will be available along with vendors selling a variety of arts/crafts or other products. If you would like additional information regarding the pow-wow, contact Ms. Betty Martin, 918-682-2586, or murrowhomedirector@gmail.com.

If interested in setting up as an arts/crafts vendor contact Ms. Stella Pepiakitah, 918-316-9091. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.



Angel Goodrich, a Tahlequah Sequoyah graduate, made it through the Tulsa Shock’s training camp and was named to the final roster.

Cherokee standout makes WNBA roster

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Angel Goodrich, welcome to the WNBA.

After waiving former University of Oklahoma center Courtney Paris, the Tulsa Shock released its regular season roster Thursday night. Goodrich, a Tahlequah Sequoyah graduate, is among the 11 women who made it through the team’s

training camp.

Goodrich did not score in the Shock’s first two preseason games but had six points, four rebounds and a game-high eight assists in the team’s 82-67 road win over the Los Angeles Sparks. She is one of two rookies to make the Shock roster, along with former Notre Dame guard Skylar Diggins.

Goodrich played collegiate ball at the University of Kansas and

averaged 14 points and almost seven assists per game this season, leading the Jayhawks to a second consecutive Sweet Sixteen appearance. A 2012-2013 first team All Big 12 selection, she is the first Cherokee Nation citizen picked in the WNBA draft and the first Native American to play for the Shock.

Tulsa’s home opener is Monday at 2 p.m. against the Washington Mystics.



Southern Ponca agronomist Amos Hinton, left, and corn genetics expert Tom Hoegemeyer of Hooper, Nebraska, examine an ear of Ponca grey corn in April 2012.

Poncas celebrate return of red corn

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WHITE EAGLE, Okla. – Citizens of the Ponca Tribe celebrated the return of one of its traditional crops last week.

While researching the tribe’s traditional corn strains, Amos Hinton, director of the Ponca Tribe’s agriculture department, came into contact with a Lakota farmer from Helena, Mont., whose family had been growing Ponca corn

for more than a century. Among the strains grown by the Montana farmer was the Poncas’ conventional red corn, whose seeds had been lost to the tribe since its forced relocation from Nebraska to Oklahoma in 1877.

Prior to their removal to Oklahoma, the Poncas grew five strains of corn and as of their May 21st announcement, Hinton’s department has tracked down four of them in less than 18 months.


Last year, the tribe partnered with the

Pawnee Nation, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Nebraska Department of Indian Affairs to plant and save one of those five strains.

For the tribe’s 3,600 citizens, last week’s ceremony comes 136 years to the day of the forced removal of the Ponca Tribe to modern day north-central Oklahoma.

“On this day, May 21, 1877, my tribal ancestors were herded like cattle from our homeland on the Niobrara River,”

NATIVE *American* TIMES



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Navajo Nation opens flagship casino in Ariz.

The 267,000-square-foot facility has 90 hotel rooms and suites, a conference center, more than 1,000 slot machines and table games. The restaurants will feature Navajo favorites like fry bread and mutton stew.

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

TWIN ARROWS, Ariz. (AP) – New sets of twin arrows are beckoning travelers on Interstate 40 in northern Arizona.

The Navajo Nation has opened its first casino in the state, the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, named after an old trading post, diner and gas station where red and gold twin arrows aimed at the ground remind motorists of what once was the “best little” stop on the interstate.

The tribe is looking to the casino to boost its economy and spur development in the area, and has infused the new business with bits of Navajo culture and tradition. Turquoise twin arrows in the logo, for instance, symbolize initiative and the journey of the Navajos through time.

“It brings jobs that we don’t have in the past, it brings revenue, it brings recognition to the Navajo Nation and Navajo people,” tribal President Ben Shelly said Monday.

A glittering chandelier greets visitors in the casino’s entryway, a depiction of the Navajos’ rise into the fourth world where humans came into existence. Stone walls and birch branches in the steakhouse represent the nesting sites of eagles – among the most revered birds of American Indian tribes, while the design on the hotel’s exterior hints at a culture of weaving.

The main entrance faces east in the same way as traditional homes on the reservation, to capture the rising sun. Navajo artists were commissioned to create artwork that hangs throughout the casino, and some of the rooms have views of the San Francisco Peaks, one of four mountains held sacred by Navajos.

Employees will be trained to let casino patrons know what it all means, said Derrick Watchman, chief executive of the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise.

“We tried to make it subtle but stand out so it prompts questions,” he said.

The Navajo Nation signed gaming compacts with Arizona and New Mexico a decade ago, clearing the way for the gaming industry on the nation’s largest American Indian reservation. Tribal members later approved gaming in a referendum vote after twice rejecting it. The tribe’s first casino opened east of Gallup, N.M., in 2008 and two others followed in New Mexico.

Twin Arrows employs about 500 people right now, the majority of whom are Navajo, but the workforce will grow to 800, Watchman said. Each of the tribal casinos follows Navajo law in that they give preference to Navajos in employment and are expected to become one of the largest employers of tribal members.

Twin Arrows, about 20 miles east of Flagstaff, is one of nearly two dozen tribal casinos across the state. Tribes that don’t operate casinos or haven’t maxed out on the number of slot machines they’re allowed under gaming compacts can lease those rights to other tribes.

The Navajo casinos are expected to generate tens of millions of dollars for the tribe that relies heavily on natural resources for revenue. Last year, the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise made its first distribution of revenue

to the tribe at \$5 million. That number is expected to increase to \$30 million annually, Watchman said.

Shelly said Monday that he would issue an executive order telling tribal offices to first consider holding conferences and staff retreats at Twin Arrows before spending money in border towns to keep the money circulating on the reservation. Other plans for the site could include housing, an airport, shuttle service from Flagstaff and Tuba City, and an amusement park, he said.

As for distributing per-capita payments to Navajos, Shelly said “there’s too many of us.” But he said the tribe is looking at creating a fund in which the roughly 300,000 tribal members can invest and receive a portion of dividends each year from tribal enterprises, including casinos.

Twin Arrows opened earlier this month, with limited casino hours that gave employees an opportunity to train further.

The 267,000-square-foot facility has 90 hotel rooms and suites, a conference center, more than 1,000 slot machines and table games. The restaurants will feature Navajo favorites like fry bread and mutton stew. A spa, golf course, more hotel rooms, a gas station and RV park also are planned.

Felix and Michelle Thompson said they’d consider having a date night there at the casino. The Flagstaff couple usually gambles at a tribal casino in Camp Verde but would favor Twin Arrows because it’s closer.

“It’s really nice,” Felix Thompson said Friday. “It’s a whole lot more than we expected – its size, its style, the service is immaculate.”

Remi Armijo of Flagstaff was looking for a wider selection of poker games and possibly a tournament.

“I guess they have to get established,” he said.

The casino had its grand opening May 24.

Gov., tribal leaders sign casino pact

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – Gov. Andrew Cuomo and St. Regis Mohawk tribal leaders signed an agreement Tuesday to ensure the Mohawks keep their exclusive casino territory in northern New York while paying the state \$30 million in gambling proceeds that have been withheld.

The accord also opens the door to negotiations with the state and counties over Mohawk land claims near their reservation along the Canadian border. Talks are expected to start in 10 days. St. Regis Mohawk Chief Ron LaFrance said the focus will be about 5,000 to 7,000 acres east of the reservation where the tribe is running out of space for homes and businesses.

The state agreed to remove the eight-county region from the Cuomo administration’s proposal for three new upstate New York casino resorts, while the tribe agreed to resume paying 25 percent of future gambling revenues to the state, with shares of that again going to Franklin and St. Lawrence counties.

“There’s still other issues to work through,” Cuomo said. “But I think we’re going to get there.”

Another \$30 million in state proceeds are being held in an escrow account pending resolution of the land claims.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino in Hogansburg, established under a 1999 compact with the state, now has more than 1,800 slot

machines, table games and a 150-room hotel. A breakaway Mohawk group established slot machines and bingo games at another location without state approval, resulting in the tribe’s withholding of revenues to the state starting in 2010. The state is negotiating some reduction in the St. Regis payment related to the breakaway gambling facility, the governor said.

At the same time, the Cuomo administration has proposed three new upstate casinos, which has helped prompt resolution of ongoing state disputes with the Oneida tribe last week and the Mohawks this week. Oneidas have a casino resort in central New York and have been promised the new ventures won’t go into its exclusive gambling territory while agreeing to share some revenues with the state.

Chief Paul Thompson said that for the St. Regis Mohawks the most important issue is the land claim, and that finances are secondary. “Our community is bursting at the seams. We have like 400 people that are living in Massena because they can’t find land for houses on our territory,” he said.


State Sen. Betty Little, who represents the region, said some of the land in question already has tribal members living there and not paying taxes.

LaFrance said it is mostly abandoned agricultural and farmland adjacent to the reservation. The reservation currently has about 14,000 residents on both the U.S. and Canadian sides.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Positions Open

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Office will begin accepting applications for Executive Assistant. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will serve as an assistant to the Kiowa Business Committee and KBC Chairman. The incumbent is responsible for a wide variety of special assignments, most of which involve confidential, sensitive and/or complex issues which can have a significant impact on the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. QUALIFICATIONS: Must possess an Associates Degree (A.A.) or equivalent from a two-year college or technical school; or six months to one year related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. REQUIREMENTS: Must possess a Valid Oklahoma drivers license. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and drug testing. EOE UP PL-93-638

Re-Advertisement-SECURITY SUPERVISOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting applications for the Security Supervisor. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. QUALIFICATIONS: Experience required in Security or Law Enforcement Field. All training documents, license or certificates are required. Knowledge of methods and objectives of Security work; communicating effectively; minimum typing skills and some knowledge of computers. Familiarization with Local, State, Tribal and Federal Laws. REQUIREMENTS: No prior felony convictions. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug test. EOE UP PL-93-638

DIRECTOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Transportation department will begin accepting applications for Transportation Director. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall administration of the Tribal Transportation Program grant and all applicable laws. QUALIFICATIONS: Preferred-Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related engineering field or Masters Degree in Civil Engineering or Registered Professional Engineer. Minimum-Bachelors Degree, three (3) years experience managing the design, construction, or maintenance of a transportation system. Two(2) years supervisory experience of at least five(5) full time employees. REQUIREMENTS: Must possess a Valid Oklahoma Drivers License. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and Drug Testing. EOE UP PL-93-638

POSITIONS CLOSE: May 31, 2013 C.O.B.

APPLY AT: The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015 or call for an application at (580)654-2300 extension 356/360.

INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

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Interested candidates should visit the website for full job description and required application, <http://www.maricopa.edu/employees/divisions/hr/jobs/current>. Please reference job ID 13551. Deadline to apply is June 7, 2013. Applicants will not be able to access the on-line application system between 10:10 pm and 10:30 pm every evening.

A Maricopa Community College (EEO/AA)

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Email cover letter and resume to the Human Resources Office, humanresources@bacone.edu. For more information, please contact Human Resources by calling 918-781-7363 or 918-781-7362. You may also email humanresources@bacone.edu.

Bacone is a private college with a mission to provide opportunities to Native American students and employees. EOE

Bacone College seeks full-time faculty

American Indian Studies

Bacone College has opening for a full-time assistant/associate professor of American Indian Studies. Applicant for the full-time position should possess a doctorate degree in American Indian Studies or closely related field. Doctoral candidates (ABD) or applicants with a master's degree will be considered.


Responsibilities for the full-time position include teaching under graduate courses in American Indian Studies, advising students, and serving on departmental and college committees. Compensation is competitive and is commensurate with rank, credentials, and experience. Position begins in August 2013.

Send letter of application, vita, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 old Bacone Road, Muskogee, OK 74403 or email, humanresources@bacone.edu.

Vocational Rehabilitation Administrative Assistant/VR Technician

The Delaware Nation is accepting applications for a Vocational Rehabilitation Administrative Assistant/VR Technician in their Oklahoma City office. Ideal candidates should have experience working with Native Americans, experience with working with individuals with physical and/or psychological disabilities, be able to multi-task, use standard office equipment efficiently & effectively, have excellent verbal and written communication skills and be well organized. Duties include assisting VR Counselor with various aspects of case management, attending meetings on behalf of the program as assigned and data entry. Must be able to pass background check, drug test and adhere to Delaware Nation personnel policies, including driving policy. The Delaware Nation utilizes Native American preference as allowed by federal law. Please visit www.delawarenation.com or the Delaware Nation Tribal Complex for an application. Fax a cover letter declaring your interest in the position and relevant qualifications not covered in your resume, an application and resume to 405-247-8857 or return to Delaware Nation, 31064 SH 281, Bldg 100, P.O. Box 825, Anadarko, OK 73005 by 05/28/2013.

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Supper break ~ 5:30 p.m.

Speakers after supper

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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

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The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY

Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY

Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrrc.org

MAY 29 – JUNE 2

Battle on the Hardwood All-Indian 7th/8th & High School Basketball Tournament. Entry deadline May 13. More info call 918-652-5405, lvme4@yahoo.com or www.dogsoldiers4jesuschrist.org

MAY 30-JUNE 1

Miami Nation Tribal Powwow, NEO College Arena, Miami, OK. Free event. Gourd Dancing, shell shaker contest, color guard presentation with the Grand Entry. Food and merchandise vendors on hand. For more information: 918-542-1445.

MAY 31

Chilocco National Alumni Association Annual Reunion Powwow & Stomp Dance at First Council Casino Hotel and Chilocco campus, 7 miles north of Newkirk, OK. Registration: Contact Jim Baker at 405 377-6826 Honorees: Class of 1963 and 1973.

JUNE 1

Birthday Dance honoring Henry A Lieb, Jr. at Ponca Tribe Cultural Center, White Eagle, Okla. War dance at 2pm; Meal at 5pm; Soldier Dance at 6:30pm and Gourd Dance at 7pm. Special contests! For more info call Kinsel Lieb 580-304-9440

Seneca Indian School Reunion,

Wyandotte Tribal Office Title VI Cafeteria

JUNE 3

Charity Golf Tourney for The Right Path, providing therapeutic horseback riding and cart driving for special needs children. Donations tax deductible. Single player \$80, Foursome \$320. Registration begins at 11:15 am, Cushing Country Club. More info call 918-607-5796 or rightpathacademy@sbcglobal.net

JULY 5

Pawnee Nation Health Fair, 9am – 2pm, Pawnee Nation Gym. Info call Brian or Adrian, 918-762-4641 ext. 1 or bknott@pawneenation.org or Adrian@pawneenation.org

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. CANCELLED

JUNE 8

Locust Grove Class of 1988 Reunion. Potluck lunch, noon at Snowdale State Park Pavillion, Salina, Okla. and 6pm dinner at Cherokee Casino West Siloam Springs. All classmates, family and friends welcome. For more info, call Lisa Hicks, (918) 708-5838 or email LGclassof88@gmail.com.

JUNE 14-15

Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For times and more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

JUNE 14-16

Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-choerokee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

JUNE 15

18th annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Games at OWU in Bartlesville. The girls game begins at 6 pm and the boys follow at around 8pm. For more information contact Sharon Lee or Laryn Bierig at 918.642.3162

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JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribes.com Website:www.tonkawatribes.com

JUNE 29, 2013

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Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-6

Thunderbird Casino 26th Annual Powwow, Norman. Intertribal dancing only July 4th. All contestants must dance in Grand Entry and Intertribal dancing in full regalia and number in full display. All day events. Contact Sue Blanchard, 405-312-4621 or Leonard Longhorn, 405-481-0674.

JULY 4-7

Pawnee Indian Veterans 67th Annual Homecoming, Memorial Park in Pawnee, Okla. Run and softball tournament Sat. at 8am. Parade Sat. at Noon. For complete schedule or info call David Echohawk, 918-873-0499 or visit online pawneeindianveteransorg@gmail.com or on Facebook at Pawnee Indian Veterans Organization (Official)

JULY 2-4

Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration at Carnegie City Park, Carnegie. Witness American Indian dancing by the Kiowa Gourd Clan at the annual Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration in Carnegie. This event will feature the tribe's Sun Dance, held in the middle of summer during the longest and hottest days of the year. Visit the Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration to see gourd dancing, stunning shawls and drumming

Film puts an international spin on Native American tale

JAKE COYLE
AP Entertainment Writer

CANNES, France (AP) – It took an international production starring a Puerto Rican and a Frenchman to bring the Native American tale “Jimmy P.: Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian” to the big screen.

The film, an English language one from French director Arnaud Desplechin, made its premiere Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival, where it’s among 20 movies competing for the prestigious Palme d’Or.

It’s principally a tete-a-tete between two men: the Blackfoot Indian Jimmy Picard (Benicio Del Toro), who’s suffering from head trauma after serving in World War II; and an eager anthropologist and psychologist from France, George Devereux (Mathieu Amalric), who treats him at a Topeka, Kansas, military hospital.

“The film has one foot in Europe and one foot in America,” Desplechin told reporters Saturday. The “A Christmas Tale” director shot the movie in the Midwest and on a Blackfoot reservation in Montana.

In the genre of psychotherapy films – from Hitchcock’s “Spellbound” to David Cronenberg’s “A Dangerous Method” – “Jimmy P.” is particularly faithful to the probing dialogue between patient and analyst. It’s a case study of a film, adapted from Devereux’s 1951 book, “Reality and Dream,” that includes lengthy transcriptions of sessions. Desplechin said he wanted to grasp “the adventure” between the pair as they become friends while sifting Jimmy’s memories for the roots of his pain.

Much of it rides on the chemistry between Del Toro and Amalric, both widely-respected, shape-shifting international actors. They operate, though, on very different rhythms, with Amalric’s frantic energy contrasting with Del Toro’s weary heaviness.

“I’m very impressed with Benicio as a person,” said Amalric. “I thought: How can I use this, the fact that I’m deeply impressed?”

Del Toro, who said the two first met several years ago in Cannes, said that two actors either connect, or they don’t. He identified with one quality of Jimmy, whose Indian name means “Everybody Talks About Him.”

“Everybody talks about him,” said Del Toro. “Everybody talks about me.”

As for whether “Jimmy P.” constitutes an American film, Desplechin said he sides with the festival’s classification, which goes by director. But, he said, the film is ultimately about a transitional kind of nationality, and the friendship that blooms between a discriminated-against Native American and an immigrant doctor, both finding their way in a country foreign to them.

Said Desplechin: “It’s the story of two men becoming American.”

Will Disney’s new Tonto be a better Hollywood creation?

Disney’s remake of the “Lone Ranger” has Tonto in the role of coach to John Reid, who eventually becomes the Lone Ranger.

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The Hollywood image of Tonto once had the Lone Ranger’s sidekick wearing a thin headband and lots of dangling fringes. The latest Disney version has a shirtless Johnny Depp adorned with feathers, a face painted white with black stripes, and a stuffed crow on his head.

The character in the upcoming “The Lone Ranger” still speaks broken English and chants prayers. But Depp has said he’s less subservient, honors the proud American Indian warrior and displays a dry sense of humor seen throughout Indian Country. The production even hired a Comanche adviser, making it decidedly a Comanche story, and received the blessing of other tribes through ceremonies during filming.

Yet Disney has caught flak for what some say is the perpetuation of stereotypes through a character that lacks any real cultural traits. Moviegoers will have to wait until July 3 to see how all this plays out on screen. For now, they’re getting a glimpse through movie trailers that have left them both optimistic and angry, and wondering to what extent the new Tonto portrays actual American Indians.

What has most people scratching their heads is the black crow that appears to hover over Depp’s head, and the black stripes that run vertically down his painted face. The inspiration came from a painting by artist Kirby Sattler, who said his work isn’t specific to one tribe but is modeled after nomadic Plains tribes of the 19th century.

Depp took the image to the film’s Comanche adviser, William “Two-Raven” Voelker, to ask if it was far-fetched. His answer: It’s not.

“There are a lot of people out there screaming who are not

Comanche, as in this story Tonto is supposed to be,” Voelker said. “They know nothing of bird culture. When we wear or use those feathers, we’re calling on the energy of the entire bird.”

Depp’s elaborate costumes – as seen in “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “Edward Scissorhands” – are nothing new. Voelker said he never would have agreed to be a consultant on the movie had he not been assured the production team would be sensitive to American Indian culture and committed to at least some historical accuracy.

The teepees used in the movies, for example, have four poles to reflect the way the Comanche built them, not three more commonly seen in movies and that trace back to Cheyenne and Sioux tribes. The production also visited Oklahoma to hear the Comanche language being spoken and worked with Voelker and others to give Depp Comanche lines in the movie.

The story of westward expansion as told from Tonto’s perspective isn’t entirely accurate historically. Some of the scenes are filmed in Monument Valley on the Navajo Nation, with trains curving around the spires that Navajos believe are petrified deities, and Depp and co-star Armie Hammer looking out beyond the cliffs. Voelker had sought out the sweeping expanses of the southern Plains, home to the Comanche Nation.

Hanay Geiogamah, a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma who advised Disney on “Pocahontas,” said Depp’s Tonto comes off as a mystical, radical modernization of the character played by Jay Silverheels in the 1950s, which is by far the most recognizable.

“You can say, ‘well, American Indians are going to like this one more,’” Geiogamah said. “Are they going to respond more positively to the Johnny Depp Tonto? You’re still responding to a non-Indian, stereotypical image.”

Eileen Maxwell, a

spokeswoman for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, said Depp has a tall order to fill if he wants to turn Tonto into a more positive image.



COURTESY
Most people are scratching their heads regarding the black crow that appears to hover over actor Johnny Depp’s head and the black stripes that run vertically down his painted face.

His straight-face turns to a smirk as the two are picked off the train by a hook that catches the chains that tie them together.

“It’s a real quick moment where I caught it and I kind of chuckled,” Tsosie said. “From what I saw, there’s some moments in there that are meant to be funny but not outwardly funny. I think most Natives will pick up on it.”

Tsosie said other tribes have teased the Comanche for making Depp an honorary member but doesn’t believe Depp is ignorant of American Indian culture. Depp was inquisitive about the Navajo language during filming, and the tribal president gave him a Pendleton blanket. T-shirts that Depp has worn have pictures of American Indian warriors in the 1492 version of homeland security and with the letters “AIM” for American Indian Movement, Tsosie said. “I think he knows what’s up.”

Disney’s remake of the “Lone Ranger” has Tonto in the role of coach to John Reid, the idealistic law school graduate played by Hammer, who finds himself out of his depth when he returns to his hometown and eventually becomes the Lone Ranger.

Michelle Shining Elk, a member of the Colville Tribes of the Pacific Northwest who works in the film industry, said the latest depiction will give the wrong perception of American Indians, “that we are uneducated, irrelevant, non-contributors to society living in teepees out on the Plains.” She expected Depp to deliver his lines in a more realistic and modern manner, “not like a caricature from a John Wayne movie, or 1920s cartoon,” she said.

But as John Wayne was a Hollywood creation, so is Tonto largely.

“I just hope that the other rabble-rousers out there can just sit back and take this in as a piece of entertainment,” Voelker said. “It’s not ever supposed to be an end-all to our Comanche culture. If they have problems, they can come to us, and I take that responsibility.”

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2:00PM Gourd Dance
5:00PM Supper Break
6:00PM Gourd Dance
7:00PM Grand Entry
11:00PM Closing Song

Bring Your Own lawn Chairs

- Inside this issue:
- Talks underway to fund ‘The American’
 - Intertribal youth celebration this week
 - Research supports community crops



NATIVE TIMES



FILE - In this Sept. 10, 2009 file photo, Navajo Code Talker Lloyd Oliver displays a photo of himself in what had been his home on the Yavapai Indian reservation in Camp Verde, Ariz. Willard Varnell Oliver, a member of the Navajo Code Talkers who confounded the Japanese during World War II by transmitting messages in their native language, died Wednesday, March 16, 2011. He was 88.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Native American vets push for recognition

SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – The Navajo Code Talkers are legendary. Then there was Cpl. Ira Hamilton Hayes, the Pima Indian who became a symbol of courage and patriotism when he and his fellow Marines raised the flag over Iwo Jima in 1945.

Before World War II and in the decades since, tens of thousands of American Indians have enlisted in the Armed Forces to serve their country

at a rate much greater than any other ethnicity.

Yet, among all the monuments and statues along the National Mall in Washington, D.C., not one stands in recognition.

A grassroots effort is brewing among tribes across the country to change that, while Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii has introduced legislation that would clear the way for the National Museum of the American Indian to begin raising private funds for a memorial.

“This is not a political gamble for anyone, and it’s not politically threatening for anyone,” said Jefferson Keel, a retired Army officer and president of the National Congress of American Indians. “This is something that both sides of the aisle can get behind and support, because it’s not going to cost a lot of money for the country. It’s just something that needs to be done.”

The push for a memorial can be

See VETS on Page 4

County can’t arrest tribal citizens on reservation

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – A state senator and Blackfeet leader who fled a traffic stop appears to have been right when he told a Glacier County sheriff’s deputy the officer had no jurisdiction to arrest him.

County law-enforcement officers have no jurisdiction over enrolled tribal members or their descendants within the exterior boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier County attorney Carolyn Berkram said Friday.

Berkram declined to discuss specifics in the case of Blackfeet tribal councilman and state Sen. Shannon Augare, whom Glacier County authorities said appeared to be drunk before he fled the Sunday night traffic stop when an officer attempted to take his keys.

See ARREST on Page 5

Report outlines Indian Country prosecutions

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The number of prosecutions on South Dakota’s two largest Indian reservations is up while the number of cases that have been declined for prosecution is down, the top federal prosecutor in South Dakota said.

Over the past four years, prosecutions are up 131 percent on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and 82 percent on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, said U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson.

Also, the number of Indian Country cases in South Dakota declined for prosecution dropped from 164 in 2011 to 114 in 2012.

The statistics are part of a new Department of Justice report to Congress looking at investigations and prosecutions in Indian Country. The report focuses on law enforcement efforts in Indian Country. It was a requirement of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010.

Johnson, who served as chairman of the Justice Department’s Native American issues subcommittee from 2009 to 2013, said the report indicates that South Dakota is a national leader in working with Indian Country.

The statistics in South Dakota are possible because of a new relationship with the tribes, Johnson said. He said that four years ago people were skeptical that public safety could be improved on the state’s Indian reservations.

“Those people were wrong,” he said in a statement. “This report to Congress reveals that we have significantly increased prosecutions and are working closely with tribal and federal law enforcement to make tribal communities a safer place to live.”

The improved safety is thanks to efforts like a community prosecution

See PROSECUTIONS on Page 4

Report shows spike in reservation criminal cases

FELICIA FONSECA and DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – American Indian leaders who have criticized the federal government for years over the way authorities handled major crimes on reservations can mark progress with the release of newly tracked statistics from the U.S. Justice Department.

The number of Indian Country cases charged in federal court has increased by 54 percent between fiscal years 2009 and 2012, from 1,091 cases to 1,677 cases, according to a DOJ report released last Thursday.

“They’ve taken their responsibility much more seriously than before,” said Brent Leonhard, an attorney with Umatilla tribe in Oregon.

The report marks the first look at government investigations and prosecutions on tribal lands. It comes as a result of the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act, which requires the Justice Department to publicly release such figures.

Justice officials acknowledge that their work is far from done, but they say the numbers demonstrate the government’s commitment to

See REPORT on Page 5



TOM STROMME | BISMARCK TRIBUNE | AP PHOTO
FILE--North Dakota’s U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon speaks during a press conference in Bismarck, N.D., in this May 28, 2013 file photo. Purdon, chairman of a subcommittee that reports to the attorney general on American Indian issues, has cited a drug trafficking case on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota as evidence that federal prosecutors have been taking on more criminal cases from American Indian reservations, pointing to collaboration with tribal leaders as a reason for the increase.

US attorney says sequester may hurt Indian safety

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon says federal prosecutors have put a dent into crime on American Indian reservations in the last few years, but worries that budget mandates will slow the progress.

A Department of Justice report issued Thursday shows that the number of Indian Country cases charged in federal court has increased by 54 percent between fiscal years 2009 and 2012, from 1,091 to 1,677 cases.

Purdon says the ability of prosecutors to keep building on that work is “being thwarted” by the sequester cuts.

The top federal prosecutor for North Dakota says the Justice Department managed to temporarily avoid furloughs for 2013, but he fears that the budget situation will only get worse.

Purdon adds that prosecutors remain “committed to improving public safety in Indian Country.”

Unofficial election results show Seneca-Cayuga incumbents out

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

GROVE, Okla. – Unofficial returns show challengers winning five of the six offices up for grabs in the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe’s election Saturday.

Among the incumbents defeated was Chief LeRoy Howard, who finished second in a three-way race for chief. The unofficial winner, William Fisher, is a Vietnam War veteran who previously served on the tribe’s Grievance and Claims committees.

Howard could not be reached for comment at press time Sunday.

With more than 600 ballots cast Saturday, other unofficial winners include Sallie White for First Business Committee member, Calvin Cassidy IV for Third Business Committee member, Carmalita Hogshooter-Ward for First Grievance Committee member; Raymond Rodgers for Third Grievance Committee member and Gary Crow for Fifth Grievance Committee member.

The results come less than a week after a Court of Indian Offenses judge vacated a Writ of Mandamus that kept Howard from carrying out many of his duties.

On Tuesday, Magistrate Jon Douthitt overturned a 10-day order that prevented Howard from conducting business on behalf of the tribe unless he recognized the winners of the tribe’s contested 2012 election as members of the Seneca-Cayuga government.

“The Court finds, adjudicates and decrees that the CFR courts

have no subject-matter jurisdiction over the matters in controversy,” Douthitt wrote. “The court sustains the respondent’s objections, vacates the Writ of Mandamus previously hereunder, and dismisses the petition.”

The June 2012 election was for Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Business Committee member, Fourth Business Committee member, Second Grievance Committee member, Fourth Grievance Committee member, Third Claims Committee member and Fourth Claims Committee member. The election was set aside after the tribe’s election board determined an absentee ballot was fraudulently cast, prompting the board to set aside all 70 absentee votes cast, a move overruled by the Court of Indian Offenses earlier this year.

Seneca-Cayuga unofficial election results:

Chief
William Fisher: 329
(i) LeRoy Howard: 264
Stephen Bunch: 29

First Business Committee member
Sallie White: 377
John Leroy Wabaunsee: 242

Third Business Committee member
Calvin Cassidy IV: 319
(i) Richard Enyart: 294

First Grievance Committee member
Carmalita Hogshooter-Ward: 318
Sherrie Johnson: 297

Third Grievance Committee member
Raymond Rodgers: 327
(i) Carrie Mott: 289

Fifth Grievance Committee member
Gary Crow: 322
(i) Diana Baker: 294

Talks underway on funding for ‘The American’ colossal statue

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. (AP) – City leaders in Sand Springs soon could vote on plans to partner with a developer to build a 21-story monument known as “The American” that would be taller than the Statue of Liberty.

Sand Springs City Manager Rocky Rogers said talks are underway between the city, sculptor Shan Gray, investors and an engineering firm. The Tulsa World reported May 28 that the City Council is considering chipping in funding for infrastructure at the planned monument, including water lines, sewer service and roadways.

“The council is much more at ease as far as the project goes and is willing to proceed forward with a future investment in the project,” Rogers said.

Backers of the plan estimate that the statue could draw between 1.5 million to 2.2 million visitors annually. The City Council could vote on the issue as soon as June 10.

“We are very excited and making progress as we speak,” said Gray, the sculptor.

Plans call for the monument to be built on private land owned by a residential care facility. Rogers said the facility plans to donate a small portion of the land and will sell the remaining land needed for the monument.

Gray said the land is wooded and a fly-over will be needed to determine the best spot for the statute.

“It’s fairly pristine wilderness. There’s not much development at all,” he said.

At 217 feet, The American would be taller than the Statue of Liberty. The statue depicts an American Indian with a bald eagle landing on his forearm. The wingspan of the eagle would be 103 feet – nearly half the height of the structure.

The plan calls for an observation deck in the statue’s forehead with an elevator to carry visitors to a gallery inside the monument.



WWW.MASTERSGALLERY.COM
A bronze version of the image is available through Masters Gallery in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

Delaware Tribe dedicates Social Services Building



Delaware Tribe Chief Paula Pechonick cuts the ribbon at the opening of the Social Services Building on the tribe’s campus in Bartlesville. The \$800,000 project funded by a grant from HUD provides offices for various social service programs including housing, education, environmental protection, utilities assistance, and medical supplies. The tribe’s Library/Museum/Archives is also located in the building. Pictured from left to right - Delaware Tribal Councilor Annette Ketchum, Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce Director Sherry Harrington, Tribal Councilor Jan Brown, Assistant Chief Chet Brooks, Chief Paula Pechonick, Tribal Councilors Jenifer Pechonick, Verna Crawford and Nate Young.



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RiverSpirit buys Expo Center naming rights

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – At a special meeting May 28, the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority unanimously approved a naming rights agreement with a local tribe’s casino.

As per the terms of the one-year agreement, which went into effect June 1st, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s RiverSpirit Casino will pay the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority \$20,000 per month for the naming rights to the Expo Center, a 448,000-square foot facility at the Tulsa County Fairgrounds.

Previously known as the QuikTrip Center, the building will soon be known as the River Spirit Expo.

“This office is excited that an entity of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will have the naming rights,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said Tuesday. “River Spirit would not be River Spirit without the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”

The casino will also have first right of renewal for up to four one-year consecutive terms, provided it gives at least three months notice before ending the agreement. The monthly rate is the same as the one paid by the QuikTrip during its five-

year contract with the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority.

“We are looking forward to this year after year, being a multi-year partnership,” Expo Square CEO Mark Andrus said.

Despite passing unanimously, one Tulsa County official needed some reassurances before approving the potential partnership.

“My one concern is about the signage on the exterior, specifically the word ‘casino,’” Tulsa County Commissioner Fred Perry said. “I know it is not in the proposed name, and it is already seen inside on

some of the signs. However, casino gambling is controversial in some circles and we need to keep the whole populace in mind with regards to signage. That building is used for a lot of family events.”

In November 2012, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority signed a six-year naming rights agreement that would have ended live horse racing at Fair Meadows, a track on the eastern edge of the Tulsa County Fairgrounds. That agreement was rescinded before it was scheduled to take effect, leaving the building without a name for the first six months of 2013.

Local group lending a hand to Native writers

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Writers wishing to join a critique group and aspiring to be published are invited to meet June 15 at 2 p.m. at the Cherokee Arts Center, 212 S. Water Street in Tahlequah. The purpose of the group is to promote and assist American Indian authors. Attendees should bring ideas for the writing group’s name to be determined at the meeting along with future activities of the group.

Attendees should bring one page of something written by them to read. Many members

have been attending open mic nights locally at the Iguana Café to share their work and increase public speaking skills.

A booth has been reserved for the writing group at Arts on the Avenue this weekend, June 7 - 8. Local authors are welcome to bring published materials to sell at the table. Reading opportunities will be offered at the booth for those who wish to read. Booth volunteers are needed.

Call Karen Cooper at 918-207-0093 for more information.

Iowa Tribe opens 2nd casino

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CHANDLER, Okla. – The Iowa Tribe opened its second casino Saturday night.

Located three miles west of Chandler on Route 66, the new Ioway Casino features 250 slot machines and a small snack bar. The new casino adds 70 jobs to the Lincoln County community.

“The Iowa Tribe’s land extends south from Perkins to Route 66,” Cimarron Casino representative Debbie Nance said. “The casino is right on Route 66, which is a historic highway and is accessible from I-44 for people who travel between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. That location because of the two highways has the potential for a lot of traffic.”

The casino will be open from 10 a.m. to

midnight from Sunday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Nance said the casino could eventually expand to include a hotel and become a 24-hour facility.

The tribe, which has about 750 enrolled citizens, is also in the process of expanding its Cimarron Casino in Perkins, adding 15,000 square feet. Construction began in February and is scheduled to be complete by October.

“The tribe is very excited about opening this casino and providing opportunities for employment for both tribal members and the local community,” Nance said. “This has provided opportunities for employees at our Cimarron Casino in Perkins to expand, seek out promotions and open up even more positions.”



Children at the 2012 InterTribal Youth Celebration in Red Rock. This year’s celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for children in the 1st through 12th grade.

COURTESY

Intertribal youth celebration this week

HEATHER PAYNE
Otoe-Missouria Tribe Media Release

RED ROCK, Okla. – The 3rd Annual InterTribal Youth Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Complex. The event is sponsored by the Ponca, Kaw, Tonkawa, Pawnee, Iowa, Osage and Otoe-Missouria Tribes to promote health and wellness to Native youth in the 1st through 12th grade.

“The original concept of this event was to get kids moving, get them a little exercise and give them some valuable information so they can make healthy choices for themselves,” event organizer and Otoe-Missouria Health Director Donnie Childs says. “In the summer, so many children are sitting at home playing video games or watching TV. The focus of the InterTribal Youth Celebration is to get kids off the couch for a day of education, health, fitness and fun.”

Younger kids can get their blood pumping on the ever-popular inflatable bouncers and then cool down with a little face painting or test their luck at some of the activity game booths. Older students can try their hand at basic operation of heavy equipment or test their driving skills on the SIDNE car.

The Kaw Nation will set up the SIDNE (Simulated Impaired Driving Experience) that simulated the reaction time of drunk or impaired driving. The cars impaired function is controlled by an operator outside of the vehicle, so drivers never know when the function will be turned on. Drivers will learn first-hand how much their reaction time is delayed if they drive impaired.

This year the tribes have added pony rides and laser tag. An outdoor inflatable laser tag course will be set up on-site for kids of all ages to enjoy. Participants can get a little exercise as they try to out run, dodge and attack

their friends and compete for title of Laser Tag Master.

“The health component is an important focus for the event,” Childs says. “Obesity is a real issue for many Native kids today. That’s why we are offering educational and fun activities to get kids thinking about how food, exercise and alcohol affect their bodies.”

The Otoe-Missouria Police Department will give kids tours of their vehicles and offer four-wheeler rides around the tribal campus.

“We want kids to be comfortable with the police,” Otoe-Missouria Chief of Police Eric Payne says. “If something is going on at home or school that isn’t right, we need kids to be OK will talking to us about their issues so we can help them. This event is the best way for us to get out in the community.”

Additionally, colleges and Vo-Techs from throughout the state will be on hand to offer information to students

about opportunities for higher education. The Pioneer Technology Center METS Mobile Lab will be onsite as well. METS is an acronym for Manufacturing Education Training Systems. Ten wireless workstations allow students to create and share CAD or other projects with onboard equipment including a Mill, Lathe, Laser, 3D Scanner and 3D Rapid Prototype machine.

“The best way to approach wellness is with a mind body approach,” Childs says. “First we give them the tools they need for the body, then we encourage them to strengthen their minds. It all lays groundwork for the future.”

A one mile fun run/walk will be held a noon followed by a sack lunch complete with ice pops. The event is free. Tribal groups are welcome. The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Complex is located at 8151 HWY 177 in Red Rock. For more information contact Donnie Childs at 580-723-4466 ext 152.

Berdie Williams Announces Run for Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Berdie Williams, a long time resident of District 9 in Bryan County, Oklahoma has announced her candidacy for a seat on the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council. The District 9 election will be held on July 13th. She is the daughter of the late Geraldine Simpson Allen, a full blood Choctaw. Williams, a 35 year employee of the Choctaw Nation, is also a farmer and businesswoman and earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

Williams’ extensive experience includes the development and implementation of longstanding, successful programs and services for Choctaw men, women and children. She joined forces with federal and state agencies such the Indian Health Service, American Cancer Society, and

the Oklahoma Breast Care Center as a strong advocate for Choctaws’ rural health care.

She launched adult and children wellness projects, health clinics, mobile mammogram screening projects, environmental health projects as well as numerous other direct healthcare services across the 10,000 square mile area of the Choctaw Nation.

Candidate Williams seeks to promote unity and inclusion so that Choctaws are inspired to engage in public conversations toward fostering greater social, economic and health opportunities for individuals and families. Williams’ involvement in tribal government and service to the Choctaw people is complemented by her values of commitment and



responsiveness to others.

“I will work tirelessly to strengthen and support the services and benefits offered to members of the Choctaw Nation. I will also support legislation or policies that strengthen the economic, cultural, education and health foundations of our tribe. We are at the threshold of an exciting occasion in tribal government and I look forward to participating in the democratic process of our sovereign nation,” Williams stated.

Poindexter announces run for Caddo Chairman

Caddo Tribal members,

I am writing this letter to introduce myself and to ask for your support in the upcoming election. My name is Kenny Lyle Poindexter and I am running for the position of Chairman of the Caddo Nation. I know your time is valuable and I do not want to waste it with a lengthy letter. I will be brief. My Grand Parents were George Tallate Beaver and Stella Maude Beaver My grand father had one Brother Joe Beaver and my Grandmother was the daughter of Ned Williams. She had three brothers Alva Williams, Jim Williams and Frank Williams. She had four sisters; Lizzie Moore, Fannie Carey, Doris Longhat and Ada Hendrix. My Grandparents George and Stella Beaver had six children; Vinola Newkumet, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Beaver, Myrtle Avina,

Ruth Sipes and Dwight Beaver. My mother was Ruth (Ruthie) Beaver Sipes

I have had two experiences on the council as the Oklahoma City Representative. I have earned a Master’s degree in Business from Southern Nazarene University and I strongly believe bringing economic development to the Caddo Nation is the most important task at hand. The money we receive from the government is dwindling especially in these times of sequester. It is imperative that we become self-sufficient and self-sustainable. We are the largest tribe in the WCD (Wichita, Caddo, and Delaware) and we have the least economic development. I want to change that; I want to provide jobs for our people, care for our elders, security and education for our children and a bright future for the Caddo Nation.



Please, request your absentee ballots before June 17, 2013 and vote at the polls for Kenny Lyle Poindexter. Vote for a bright future for our Tribe the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

Thank you

Kenny Lyle Poindexter

NATIVE
American
TIMES



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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News from the crossroads of Indian Country





PHOTO COURTESY HUALAPI TRIBE
Hualapai tribal citizens protest Tuesday at the roadblock/toll booth en route to the Grand Canyon Skywalk. This blockade was erected over the holiday weekend by Mohave County ranch owner Nigel Turner, who has been charging unsuspecting tourists \$20 per person to drive through and intimidating them with armed security personnel.

Mediation fails in dispute over road to tribe’s Grand Canyon Skywalk attraction

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A daylong attempt to resolve a dispute over paving the road to the Grand Canyon Skywalk ended without an agreement.

Nigel Turner, who owns a tourist ranch along Diamond Bar Road, wants a chance to review the road plans and assurances that the project will include elements such as fencing, cattle guards, underpasses and entrances to his property. Those amenities were agreed upon in the 2007 settlement of a federal lawsuit he filed over the project, he said.

The federal government contends that Turner never was given the right to approve road designs and has improperly built on the government’s easement.

The two sides met Thursday in mediation but left without coming to agreement. The impasse means a federal judge could hear a request from Turner for a temporary restraining

order to halt the road project for at least 30 days. A hearing date hasn’t been set.

“Why would I want damage to my land and that beautiful property instead of sitting down for 30 days and talking and doing it correctly?” Turner said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press.

Federal officials declined to comment.

Diamond Bar is the primary road tourists take to reach the Grand Canyon Skywalk and Turner’s ranch, though there are less desirable alternatives.

About 4.5 miles of the road was paved in 2010. The remaining 9 miles of dirt and gravel road is being paved. It is being realigned in some areas and will run partly adjacent to Turner’s ranch. Construction began earlier this year.

Under the 2007 settlement, the entire road was to be complete within four years, or the one-mile stretch on Turner’s property no longer could be used for public access, he said.

Bob Taylor, Mohave County’s chief civil deputy attorney, said it’s unclear whether the road automatically reverted to Turner.

“Certain procedural steps must be taken to abandon a road,” he said. “The dispute can be whether or not the settlement agreement that was approved by the board of supervisors is self-executing. Was that a sufficient ministerial step to effect the abandonment at that point without further board action?”

Meanwhile, Turner has set up a checkpoint on the road, and it’s manned by his staff and hired security guards. Turner is charging tourists what he calls an entry fee to his western ranch that includes an hourly rodeo show, gun range, museum and other activities. It costs \$20 per adult and \$10 per child.

Turner said he would have begun charging the fee more than a year ago had he realized the time to build the new road under the settlement had expired.

“I’m not changing that, because I believe it’s fair,” he said. “My land has been abused for 13 years. Beside the road, there’s beer bottles, trash, they stop and take pictures of my ranch, my cowboys, and they don’t pay a penny.”

The Hualapai Tribe, which owns the Skywalk, said Turner shouldn’t be taking advantage of tourists who have no intention of going to his ranch. Tribal Vice Chairman Philbert Watahomigie said the tribe would work to create a temporary dirt roadway that would bypass the checkpoint.

The tribe also has called on Mohave County officials to intervene so that tourists can freely drive on the current road, which the tribe argues is a public thoroughfare.

“To continue to allow a private citizen to use armed guards to stop tourists and charge a toll is unthinkable,” said tribal spokesman Dave Cieslak.

VETS

Continued from Page 1

traced back to the 1980s when the well-known Three Soldiers sculpture was unveiled near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Depicted are three American soldiers: one white, one black and a Hispanic.

During the Vietnam era, the federal government says more than 42,000 Native Americans served in the military and 90 percent of those service members were volunteers.

“I’ve come across veterans from throughout the whole country, from the East Coast all the way to California, and a lot of Indian who people believe that there should be something on the National Mall. We’re not there, we haven’t been recognized,” said Steven Bowers, a Vietnam veteran and member of the Seminole tribe in Florida.

Bowers is spearheading an effort to gain support from the nation’s tribes to erect a soldier statue on the National Mall in recognition of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who have served over the years.

His proposal calls for placing it prominently at the entrance of a planned education center at the Vietnam memorial – where millions of people visit each year – rather than at the Museum of the American Indian.

Numerous tribal organizations, including the National Congress of American Indians, have signed on in support of the grassroots effort, and Bowers is hopeful the legislation introduced this week by Schatz doesn’t complicate matters.

Jeff Begay, a Navajo and Vietnam veteran whose

grandfather also served as a scout for the U.S. Army, said he prefers a memorial close to the heart of the National Mall.

“We feel that we don’t want to be represented on the museum property because we’re not relics anymore,” he said. “We’re not artifacts to be observed. We are real soldiers, we contributed to defense of this country, and we need to be honored in the Mall area.”

John Garcia, deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, said he’s been meeting with Native American leaders and believes that a memorial “is a real possibility” if land is located and private funds are raised.

Garcia estimated there are about 200,000 Native American veterans, and a memorial dedicated to them would be appropriate since they have been involved in every American war from the American Revolution to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supporters of the two efforts agree that a memorial in the capital city would help to raise awareness of the role Native veterans have played in the country’s history.

“We’re trying to instill pride in our heritage as original inhabitants of this land,” Begay said. “We don’t want our children to grow up with that concept that we’re insignificant. We want to instill in them that they’re important members of the American community, and they should be proud of that.”

Associated Press writer
Russell Contreras contributed to this report.

PROSECUTIONS

Continued from Page 1

pilot program on the Pine Ridge reservation that helps the U.S. attorney’s office and the attorney general of the Oglala Sioux Tribe work more closely together and hiring a special assistant U.S. attorney to prosecute

violence against women cases in federal and tribal court on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, Johnson said.

However, he added that there is still a lot of work to be done.

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Choctaws host Southeastern language conference

CHRISSY SHEPARD
The Biskinik

DURANT, Okla. – On May 22-23, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma hosted the fifth annual Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes Summit of Southeastern Languages Conference, with approximately 70 representatives from nine different tribes in attendance. Andrea Ramon served as this year’s featured speaker. Ramon is from Sells, Ariz., and a member of the Tohono O’Odham tribe. Her program she presented was entitled, “To Inspire, Empower and Expand through Language and Culture.”

This is the second time the Choctaw Nation has hosted the event, the first time being in 2011.

The conference began Wednesday morning with the Choctaw Nation Color Guard posting the colors followed by Choctaw member Brad Joe singing the National Anthem in the Choctaw language. Rachel Wedlow of the Chickasaw Nation, president of the Inter-Tribal Language Committee, greeted attendees.

The 2013 Choctaw Nation princesses performed the Lord’s Prayer in sign language and Choctaw member Eveline Steele said a prayer in the Choctaw language.

Joy Culbreath, executive director of Education for the Choctaw Nation, expressed her gratefulness for the School of the Choctaw Language as well as the audience’s presence at the Inter-Tribal Language Conference. “We are honored by your presence at the Nation today,” she exclaimed, “thank you for coming.”

Culbreath then mentioned Jim

Parrish, director of the School of the Choctaw Language, and how he has helped shaped the program into what it is today. “Jim has done so much to develop this program,” she said.

Culbreath explained Jim’s coming to the Choctaw Nation, telling the audience about how he served as superintendent for some schools in the Nation’s area, therefore fully aware of the work in public schools.

“He is now helping us on a state level,” she continued, “working with the State Department, on different committees, so that we may gain the footage that we need in that area, so we appreciate Jim and all that he does for the language program.”

Culbreath then expressed to the attendees how important a language program is to a tribe. She said that when Chief Pyle was elected into office in 1997, one of the first things he told her was, “Let’s build a language program. It’s the most important thing we can do.”

Culbreath said, “You know as well as I do, many tribes are losing their language. When you lose your language, you actually lose your tribe,” because without language, the tribe has nothing setting them apart from society, she explained.

“We need to preserve our stories... and we need them in the Choctaw language and in your language for you.”

She continued talking about the recent history of the Nation. “Many things have happened and many things have been developed, and there’s still progress to be made,” Culbreath stated. “During that time, we have worked diligently so that we may be able to teach in the public schools for credit, and

that has happened.”

Culbreath spoke of Choctaw language classes now being taught in public schools, universities, community classes and worldwide through online courses. “We’ve worked with the State Department, all of our teachers are fully certified to teach in public schools, and they’re certified to teach the Choctaw language; we’re very proud of that.”

She explained the significance of language for all people, not just designated for Choctaw members or Native Americans. “You don’t have to be Choctaw, you don’t have to be Native American, many people just have a love for language,” Culbreath said.

“We want to share with you, and we hope you’ll share with us,” she said to the audience.

Culbreath also shared with attendees exciting news from the School of the Choctaw Language that is sure to expand the program: a new facility.

Constructed with funds from a grant, Culbreath said, the new building for the language program is designed with all new equipment that will help language instructors further educate their students to the best of their ability.

It includes 17 studios that will serve as the teachers’ classrooms. “Up until now, most teachers had to sit down to teach distant learning, they can see their students, their students can see them, they can communicate,” explained Culbreath. “Now, with this new equipment, they will be able to get up and move around in their classroom, and that will help the teacher.”

Another benefit of the new facility, according to Culbreath,

is all the instructors will be in one building together. “We’ve been scattered, and that’s been difficult, but now they will be able to work in the same area together.”

According to Parrish, the employees of the language program should be moved out of the previous facility and into the new building by the week of June 3. The instructors will be utilizing the new building in August when school starts.

The new facility is located at 3588 Tom Smith Rd. in Durant.

After Culbreath’s warm welcome, Wedlow invited participants to sing hymns in their Native language and share their culture with their fellow attendees.

Following several hymns being sung in various tribal languages, the crowd separated into group sessions followed by breakout sessions to learn about languages and cultures.

Sessions were led by groups such as the Sauk Language Program, Muscogee Nation, Cherokee Nation and the Coushatta Language Program and covered topics like the Euchee/Yuchi Language Project, classroom settings, incorporating culture, early childhood curriculum development, technology and immersion camp.

According to Parrish, this year’s event was educational and successful. “The summit went really well,” he said. “All of the breakout sessions were very informative.”

If you’d like to learn more about the School of the Choctaw Language, visit [choctawschool.com](#).

ARREST

Continued from Page 1

But she noted a 2001 Montana Supreme Court ruling in a case dealing with the arrest of a tribal member who led Cut Bank police on a chase from the city, which lies just east of the reservation’s boundary, onto tribal land.

The Supreme Court in its City of Cut Bank vs. Daniel Bird decision said only a law enforcement officer who observes a tribal member committing an offense within the officer’s jurisdiction can pursue and arrest that member on the reservation if the suspect flees there. Even then, the arresting officer must follow Blackfeet tribal code procedure to extradite a suspect from the reservation, which includes first bringing the suspect to tribal court.

In Augare’s case, the Glacier County deputy pulled over the Browning Democrat on U.S. Highway 2 nine miles west of Cut Bank and within the reservation’s boundaries. The deputy identified Augare as a tribal councilman and observed that he appeared to be impaired and an “overwhelming odor” of alcohol came from the vehicle, the sheriff’s office said in a statement.

Augare then allegedly said the deputy had no jurisdiction and he was going to leave. The deputy told him not to leave and tried to take his keys, but Augare drove off, the sheriff’s office said.

The deputy did not pursue Augare, but contacted the tribe’s law enforcement office. The sheriff’s office has turned over the case to the tribe.

The Blackfeet reservation is one of six American Indian reservations within Montana. Each is considered a sovereign nation ruled by its own tribal government, which sometimes complicates jurisdictional authority between tribes, state and federal governments.

The Blackfeet tribe’s chief prosecutor has said a decision has not been made on whether to charge Augare with a crime, and he is awaiting the conclusion of a tribal police investigation.

Prosecutor Carl Pepion has denied comment on the jurisdictional issue, saying that is an issue that may come up at trial, if the case proceeds that far.

Augare did not return a call for comment Friday.

REPORT

Continued from Page 1

combating violent crime on reservations where rates are higher than the national average.

Also, the report shows that prosecutors secured convictions in about two-thirds of nearly 6,000 reservation cases between calendar years 2011 and 2012. Of the 5,985 cases, about one-third were declined for prosecution.

Some others were resolved administratively or sent to another prosecuting authority and didn’t end up in federal court.

The numbers show “that we’re walking the talk at the Department of Justice,” said Tim Purdon, U.S. attorney in North Dakota.

Arizona, home to part of the nation’s largest American Indian reservation, had the highest number of total referrals with more than 2,000, followed by South Dakota with nearly 1,000 and Montana with more than 500.

Purdon leads a subcommittee that reports to Attorney General Eric Holder on American Indian issues. He said federal officials

“want to improve public safety” and added that they are working to “remove those most dangerous predators, the most dangerous criminals from Indian Country.”

The federal government and tribes have concurrent jurisdiction in crimes where the suspect and victim are both American Indian, but federal prosecutions carry much stiffer penalties. Among recent U.S. government prosecutions:

– A man was found guilty of sexually abusing a teenager he met while working as a counselor at a summer camp on the Rocky Boy’s reservation in Montana. He was sentenced to more than three years in prison.

– A woman on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota was convicted of beating her 4-year-old son with a plastic clothes hanger. She was sentenced to seven years in prison.

– A man was sent to prison for 10 years for kicking the woman who was pregnant with his child on the Navajo Nation in Arizona. The unborn child died after suffering a skull fracture and other injuries.

Still, nearly 2,000 cases were declined for prosecution over the two-year span, a matter for which

the DOJ has been criticized in the past.

“There are cases that are legitimately declined, and that is appropriate and expected,” said Leonhard, of the Umatilla tribe’s Office of Legal Counsel.

The DOJ’s report shows that the cases declined in 2011 and 2012 were mostly because of insufficient evidence. Rates for individual states varied widely – from Montana, where 52 percent of cases were turned down, to Arizona, where 20 percent were declined over the two years.

Fred Urbina, chief prosecutor for the Pascua Yaqui tribe in southern Arizona, said monthly meetings between tribal and federal officials provide a good indication of why a case is declined for federal prosecution.

“We never used to get any kind of declination (notices) in the past,” he said, adding, “Now we’re in on that loop.”

Federal prosecutors don’t measure their performance in Indian Country by declination statistics. Instead, they point to the relationships they’ve built with tribal authorities and community members.

“If anything, we get way too caught up in looking at the numbers,” said Patrick Schneider, tribal liaison for the U.S. attorney’s office in Arizona. Declined case statistics don’t indicate “whether we’re doing a good job or not.”

Federal authorities report visiting tribal lands more often to discuss ways to combat crime, train police and bring on tribal prosecutors as special assistant U.S. attorneys.

Grant Walker, tribal prosecutor on the Standing Rock Reservation in North and South Dakota since 2009, said he doesn’t put a lot of stock into declination rates because he talks to federal prosecutors on a regular basis.

The DOJ’s declination rate includes cases referred to and prosecuted in tribal courts, where sentences can go beyond the traditional maximum penalty of one year in jail if certain provisions are met under federal law.

“Declinations aren’t really a big deal anymore to us because we know what the case is, and if the federal government declines we’ve already had a chance to prosecute that case too,” Walker said. “So it’s not like the ball is hidden, and the prosecution’s office doesn’t know

about it.”

Purdon cited a drug trafficking case on the Standing Rock Reservation dubbed “Operation Prairie Thunder,” in which 12 people were indicted in federal court and five in tribal court. Purdon said that while the tribal cases were subtracted from their prosecution record, it showed unprecedented cooperation and could lead to long-term success.

Former Standing Rock Tribal Judge Bill Zuger, who stepped down last year after six years on the bench, said that case was the product of federal prosecutors showing interest and building trust with tribal law enforcement. Until recently, Zuger said, he hadn’t ever seen a U.S. attorney on the reservation.

“The people down there, anecdotally, feel that things are getting better,” Zuger said.

However, he added: “Keep in mind it took 125 years to screw it up. It takes a while to fix it. It’s going to take more than four or five years to really straighten out the mess.”

Kolpack reported from Fargo, N.D.

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CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Positions Open

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Office will begin accepting applications for Executive Assistant. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will serve as an assistant to the Kiowa Business Committee and KBC Chairman. The incumbent is responsible for a wide variety of special assignments, most of which involve confidential, sensitive and/or complex issues which can have a significant impact on the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Must possess an Associates Degree (A.A.) or equivalent from a two-year college or technical school; or six months to one year related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a Valid Oklahoma drivers license. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and drug testing. EOE UP PL-93-638

Re-Advertisement-SECURITY SUPERVISOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting applications for the Security Supervisor. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Experience required in Security or Law Enforcement Field. All training documents, license or certificates are required. Knowledge of methods and objectives of Security work; communicating effectively; minimum typing skills and some knowledge of computers. Familiarization with Local, State, Tribal and Federal Laws. **REQUIREMENTS:** No prior felony convictions. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug test. EOE UP PL-93-638

DIRECTOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Transportation department will begin accepting applications for Transportation Director. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall administration of the Tribal Transportation Program grant and all applicable laws. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Preferred-Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related engineering field or Masters Degree in Civil Engineering or Registered Professional Engineer. Minimum-Bachelors Degree, three (3) years experience managing the design, construction, or maintenance of a transportation system. Two(2) years supervisory experience of at least five(5) full time employees. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a Valid Oklahoma Drivers License. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and Drug Testing. EOE UP PL-93-638

POSITIONS CLOSE: May 31, 2013 C.O.B.

APPLY AT: The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015 or call for an application at (580)654-2300 extension 356/360.
INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

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Interested candidates should visit the website for full job description and required application, <http://www.maricopa.edu/employees/divisions/hr/jobs/current>. Please reference job ID 13551. Deadline to apply is June 7, 2013. Applicants will not be able to access the on-line application system between 10:10 pm and 10:30 pm every evening.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for the position of Attorney General. For a complete job description; please visit the Pawnee Nation website at www.pawneenation.org. To apply, submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Marshall Gover, President Pawnee Nation Business Council, PO Box 470, Pawnee, OK 74058. Applications may be e-mailed to vwills@pawneenation.org. For questions regarding the position; please call Vi Wills, Executive Secretary at (918) 762-3621. The deadline to apply is 5 pm on Friday, June 7, 2013.

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Bacone College seeks full-time faculty
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Bacone College has opening for a full-time assistant/associate professor of American Indian Studies. Applicant for the full-time position should possess a doctorate degree in American Indian Studies or closely related field. Doctoral candidates (ABD) or applicants with a master's degree will be considered.

Responsibilities for the full-time position include teaching under graduate courses in American Indian Studies, advising students, and serving on departmental and college committees. Compensation is competitive and is commensurate with rank, credentials, and experience. Position begins in August 2013.

Send letter of application, vita, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 old Bacone Road, Muskogee, OK 74403 or email, humanresources@bacone.edu.

Executive Director

Housing Authority of The Apache Tribe of Oklahoma is now accepting applications for Executive Director Position. Applications will be accepted until June 6, 2013 at the close of business day at 5:00pm

Qualifications:

1. Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations governing Indian Housing programs including NAHASDA
2. Knowledge of research and statistical analysis techniques
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4. Ability to organize, motivate and direct subordinates
5. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the city, and county officials, representatives of other public agencies, community groups, business representatives, tenants and homebuyers, and members of the public.
6. Ability to establish and maintain effective relations with the BOC, Apache Tribe, and coworkers.
7. Excellent working knowledge of Housing Authority policies and procedures.

Resumes and Applications may be returned to Housing Authority of the Apache Tribe located at 1503 American Street Anadarko, OK 73005 PH # (405) 247-7305. Applications must be submitted by closing date on June 6, 2013 at 5:00pm. *Native American Preference Applies*

Scholar Development Coordinator at Northeastern State University

The Scholar Development Coordinator will work under the supervision of Director of the Indigenous Scholar Development Center (ISDC), a multi-year, federally funded (NASNTI) grant project to improve the academic performance, college retention, graduation rates, and occupational success of low-income American Indian students by implementing direct services to students, faculty/staff development, and community engagement. The Coordinator will work in direct contact with students, project staff, and other academic and support units on campus and tribal higher education agencies. May be responsible for the supervision of student workers as assigned. Bachelor's Degree Required, Master's Preferred. Minimum 3 years' experience in postsecondary student programs, with preference for significant experience in working with American Indians. For more information, and to apply, visit the NSU Human Resources Posting at: <https://nsuok.peopleadmin.com/postings/1966> Visit the ISDC Facebook and webpage at www.nsuok.edu/isdc. Located on the Second Floor of the John Vaughan Library in Tahlequah, OK.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS

Bacone College currently has openings for Adjunct Instructors for Fall 2013. There are vacancies in the following:

In the Division of Arts and Sciences, teaching the course Media Culture; In the Division of General Studies, teaching the course Creativity: Treasuring the Arts; also in General Studies, teaching the course Humanities through the Arts; in the Division of Academic Support teaching developmental courses in writing, reading or mathematics.

All positions require an advanced degree; experience teaching at the college level is preferred. Salary is competitive. Review of Applicants will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled.

Candidates should submit a letter of interest, vita and three professional references to Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee, Ok 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu

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EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrrc.org

JUNE 7

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Vinita to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. Vinita Health Center, 27371 S. 4410 Rd. For more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

JUNE 8

Inter-tribal Children's Powwow at Ottawa Powwow Grounds, Miami. **CANCELLED**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Hulbert to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. Hulbert Public Library, 210 S. Broadway St. For more information, email bobbie-eagleton@cherokee.org or call 918-458-6951.

JUNE 10

12 p.m. to 6 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Bartlesville to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. Rogers State University-Bartlesville, 7th Floor, Rm 719, 401 S. Dewey Ave.. For more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

Camp Cherokee Day Camp is in Bell through June 14. The Day Camp is for Cherokee

Nation students in first through seventh grades. Applications can be found at http://camp.cherokee.org/Portals/63/2013_DayCampCherokeeApplication.pdf. For more information, call 918-772-4204.

JUNE 11

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Afton to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. Northeast Technology Center, 19901 S. State Route 69. For more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – The Small Business Assistance Center will hold a QuickBooks 101 workshop in Sallisaw. The workshop will focus on basic QuickBooks training. Chamber of Commerce, 301 E. Cherokee Ave. For more information, call Brenda Alley, 918-207-3954.

JUNE 12

1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Three Rivers Health Center in Muskogee is hosting the "Living Longer, Living Stronger with Chronic Conditions Workshop," which will continue on June 19 and 26 and July 3, 10 and 17. The workshop is free to Native Americans suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma and arthritis. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call 918-781-6501.

11 p.m. to 7 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Claremore to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. Northeast Technology Center, 1901 N. State Route 88. For

more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

JUNE 13

1 p.m. to 7 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Grove to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. NEO A&M College, Room 114, 1201 NEO Loop. For more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

JUNE 14-15

Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For times and more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health Services and Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah will host the Day of Champions Football Camp. The free camp is open to everyone ages 8-14 and lasts through June 15. For more information, call Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health, 918-207-4977.

JUNE 14-16

Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-cherokee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

JUNE 15

18th annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Games at OWU in Bartlesville. The girls game begins at 6 pm and the boys

follow at around 8pm. For more information contact Sharon Lee or Laryn Bierig at 918.642.3162

Credit Clarity Saturday. What does your credit report say about you? Come find out! 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Hicks Community Center, 3443 S. Mingo, Tulsa. Free credit reports can be pulled on site. Free one on one review of your report with a credit professional. Free info on finances and home buying.

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com Website: www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 22

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. – General election for Cherokee Nation Tribal Council seats. Voters must cast their votes at their designated voting locations, which will have been previously delivered in the mail. For more information, call the Cherokee Nation Election Commission, 918-458-5899.

JUNE 27

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Cherokee Nation Health Services will be in Muskogee distributing free gunlocks as part of the Youth Suicide Means Restriction Campaign. Three Rivers Health Center, 1001 S. 41st St. East. For more information, call Mindy Hanson, 918-889-0981.

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com

Research supports community based food systems, local crops

EVE NEWMAN
Laramie Boomerang

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) – Two years into a five-year, \$5 million research project on community food systems, University of Wyoming assistant professor Christine Porter is more hopeful about the work than she was when she started.

Porter and a team of research partners are following five community groups developing local food systems with the goal of learning how to support such organizations while also figuring out how they work best.

Porter said after seeing the impact of \$40 mini-grants – one piece of the project – or quantifying the harvest produced in a typical Laramie garden, she’s gained enthusiasm for the tangible results such work can have in a community.

“It matters even more than I thought, with even more immediate, measurable benefits,” she said.

The project, called Food Dignity, is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the largest USDA grant UW has received.

Porter, who works in the Division of Kinesiology and Health, is collaborating with a team from Cornell University, where she earned a Ph.D. in community nutrition. Team members and community partners gathered in Laramie recently to discuss their work.

Porter said she wants to make sure universities are part of the community food system movement that’s growing around the country. Community groups participating in the project receive \$60,000 a year to expand their work, while the academic partners document. The academic community is uniquely positioned to disseminate information in a way each local group can’t, she said.

“There’s a need to learn from the work nationally and also to promote and share the ideas that they have, and that’s one thing we can do as academics,” Porter tells the Laramie Boomerang.

Feeding Laramie Valley is a local community partner in the project. Founder Gayle Woodsum said 20 percent of Albany County



COURTESY
Volunteers work at a Feeding Laramie Valley food-production garden at First United Methodist Church.

residents live in poverty, and 8,000 are food-insecure.

“We have our own challenges,” she said.

But last year Feeding Laramie Valley tracked the harvests from eight local gardens and found they produced enough vegetables, on average, to feed a person his or her USDA-recommended 2.5 cups a day for a year. And that’s with Laramie’s 56-day growing season.

“They were seriously productive,” Porter said.

Virginia Sutter, a Northern Arapaho who lives on the Wind River Indian Reservation, directs a nonprofit organization called Blue Mountain Associates, which is working to expand the sustainable food system on the reservation.

The group supports a farmer’s

market and has given grants to community members to start gardens.

Sutter said residents suffer from a high rate of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, but they have no shortage of space to develop.

“We have a lot of acres to work with, opening a brand new door for us to make a change in the lives of our people,” she said.

Sutter said gardens are popping up across the reservation, helping residents become more self-sufficient.

“Each year has brought us a lot more success than we could have imagined,” she said.

East New York Farms in Brooklyn, N.Y., was founded in the 1990s to address several needs

identified by the community, according to director Sarita Daftary. There weren’t many green spaces or safe public spaces, residents suffered high rates of diabetes and obesity, they lacked access to healthy food, and young people couldn’t find jobs.

However, the community did have a lot of vacant lots and residents who brought gardening experience from around the world.

“We wanted to develop those resources,” Daftary said.

Today the farm supports a farmer’s market where locals may sell surplus produce, it provides jobs and stipends through its youth program, and it’s part of a network of dozens of community and backyard gardens.

“That has been a huge growth over the years and a huge success,” she said.

Dig Deep Farms and Produce in Ashland and Cherryland, Calif., leases land from Alameda County in one of the most densely populated places in the San Francisco Bay area, according to general manager Hank Herrera.

The farm has about 250 subscribers to its community-supported agriculture program and employs 10 people.

Herrera said the farm creates jobs while also creating access to healthy food in a place with few supermarkets and a population in poorer health than surrounding areas.

“Producing and delivering fresh, local, healthy food is an important avenue for health,” he said.

Jemila Sequeira, who coordinates the Whole Foods Project in Ithaca, N.Y., said even a seemingly affluent community has residents who struggle to feed themselves. And the people who need the most help are left out of the food system.

“If there’s one person struggling to feed themselves healthy food, to me that’s a concern,” she said.

Porter said a sustainable food system is a necessity, as the industrial system is draining aquifers and using up soil and oil.

“What food system can also feed our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren and our great-great-grandchildren, and also all of us today?” she said. “We must develop sustainable alternatives.”

Oglala Sioux to open own grocery store

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The Oglala Sioux Tribe will open up a new grocery store on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation within days of the forced closure of the reservation’s sole grocery store, the president of the tribe announced Tuesday.

In an open letter to tribal members, Oglala Sioux tribal president Bryan Brewer said the tribe will open its own grocery store within 48 hours of the closing of Sioux Nation Shopping Center and that no tribal members will lose their jobs because of the change.

The tribal council unanimously voted in May to stop leasing the building and the land to Hi-Way 20, the owner of Sioux Nation, effective Aug. 4. Brewer said the decision was necessary because of health violations.

“The Tribe made this decision after conducting an extensive investigation, which revealed that Hi-Way 20 has committed serious and repeated violations of the lease and operated the grocery store in a manner that is contrary to the public health and welfare of the Tribe, its members, and other residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation,” Brewer wrote in the letter.

He said the new store would be clean, safe and sanitary and offer fresh, reasonably priced items. In addition, he said no tribal members will lose their jobs and current employees will be given the opportunity to work full-time with benefits and have opportunities for advancement.

A tribal spokeswoman did not immediately return a phone call and email seeking additional details on the store and its creation for residents of the reservation, which spans much of southwestern South Dakota.

Terry Pechota, a Rapid City-based lawyer for Hi-Way 20, denied any health violations at Sioux Nation.

“We’re still hopeful we can meet with the tribe and come to some resolution,” he said, adding that legal action may be necessary otherwise.

This is not the first time the tribe has butted heads with the owners. Sioux Nation was closed down for about a week a year ago over complaints about outdated meat.

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Arena Director:
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Color Guard:
Cherokee Color Guard

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5:00PM **Supper Break**
6:00PM **Gourd Dance**
7:00PM **Grand Entry**
11:00PM **Closing Song**

Bring Your Own lawn Chairs

- Inside this issue:
- Blast marks monument’s anniversary
 - Judge expunges senator’s DUI records
 - Creek language play debuts at festival



NATIVE TIMES

Trust reform: Comments call for clearer individual rights

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Despite extenuating circumstances keeping four of its five members away, the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform took public comments Friday morning from tribal citizens from across Oklahoma and

Kansas. “It’s a one-woman show



Stacy Leeds

today,” commissioner and Cherokee Nation citizen Stacy Leeds said. “That’s appropriate though, so we can hear more from the public.” Established in December 2009 and staffed in November 2011 as part of the Cobell vs. Salazar settlement agreement, the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform was given 24 months to

evaluate the Department of Interior’s management and administration of its nearly \$4 billion in trust assets and recommend potential improvements. The DOI is responsible for 56 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface mineral estates for 384,000 Individual Indian Money accounts and 2,900 accounts for more than 250 tribes nationwide.

In 2011 alone, about \$400 million in funds from leases, use permits, land sales and income from financial assets were collected for individual accounts and an additional \$609 million was collected for the tribal accounts. “There is no actual document that outlines the federal trust responsibilities,” Leeds said. “We felt it important to try to summarize exactly what

we were talking about for the commission.” Among the specific requests heard Friday were multiple calls for greater explanation of rights and responsibilities to individual trust land owners and lease holders, including the potential for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to offer sessions on understanding

See TRUST on Page 6

Former US justice addresses Sovereignty Symposium audience

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Many Americans do not see the need for an independent and impartial judiciary and would prefer that judges act as a reflex of popular will, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor said Wednesday. O’Connor told participants at an annual gathering of federal, state and tribal officials that some members of the public frequently criticize judges who hand down decisions that do not reflect their own personal beliefs or politics. “We have a serious problem today because many people in our country think of judges as just politicians in robes,” O’Connor said. “They’re also called judicial activists or Godless secular humanists, trying to tell the rest of us what to do.”

“The measure of a great judge is not how often she agrees with you, but how fairly she approaches the parties and the cases before the judge. And that includes the male judges, too,” O’Connor said during the keynote address of the Sovereignty Symposium. O’Connor, the first woman appointed to the nation’s highest court, said Americans are sometimes dependent on judicial involvement in enforcement of some of the principles on which the nation was founded. She said the nation’s judicial system has been a model for other nations, but the judiciary is threatened by erosion of its independence and impartiality. “There’s nothing wrong with criticizing judges. They’re fair game and they can make mistakes,” O’Connor said. But the

See JUSTICE on Page 2



Chelsey Ramer, center, with her parents James and Debra Ramer after the Escambia Academy graduation ceremony May 23, 2013 in Atmore, Alabama

COURTESY

Graduate fined for wearing feather

ATMORE, Ala. (AP) – An American Indian student says she’s being fined \$1,000 for wearing a feather on her mortarboard when she graduated from high school in south Alabama in late May. Chelsey Ramer, 17, told WPMI-TV that she feels like she’s being

discriminated against by her alma mater, Escambia Academy in Atmore. Ramer is part of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and the 17-year-old says she wore a feather at graduation last month to honor her heritage. “Being honored with a feather for graduation is a wonderful experience,”

her former teacher Alex Alvarez told the television station. “It’s a lot more than showing off your culture. It has ties into our spirituality as well.” The school now is making Ramer pay a \$1,000 fine to get her diploma

See FEATHER on Page 6



FILE - Gene Barfield, 60, right, of Boyne City, puts a wedding ring on the hand of his partner Tim LaCroix, 53, of Boyne City, during their wedding ceremony at the government headquarters complex of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians on Friday, March 15, 2013, in Harbor Springs, Mich. The two men were married after the tribal chairman signed a measure approving same-sex marriage in a state where it’s officially banned.

Tribally married gay couple invited to White House LGBT Pride reception

BOYNE CITY, Mich. (AP) – Two men who married one another on an American Indian reservation in Michigan, which bans same-sex marriage, have been invited to the White House. Tim LaCroix and his longtime partner, Gene Barfield, will be guests of President Barack Obama on Thursday at a reception

honoring LGBT Pride Month, MLive.com reported Saturday. LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. The men were married in March by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, of which LaCroix is a member. Same-sex

See COUPLE on Page 6

DOI official: Governments must work together on ICWA

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The future of the Indian Child Welfare Act depends on the federal government’s ability to work with state governments and ensuring that tribal courts have enough resources, the chief general counsel for the Department of Interior said June 6. Department of Interior Solicitor Hilary Tompkins spoke at a panel discussion in Washington D.C. examining the federal law created to ensure that Native American children removed from homes be placed with relatives or put in foster care with other Native American families, except in unusual circumstances. The discussion, moderated by former U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, was streamed online.

Tompkins said state court judges need outreach and training on the law. “Here it’s unique. It’s a federal law that applies to their proceedings,” she said. She also said there needs to be a guarantee that when a child gets into the foster care and adoption system, a proper assessment is done to determine whether the child is Native American. Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 because of the once high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by public and private agencies. Tompkins, who was born on the Navajo Nation reservation and is an enrolled tribal citizen, said she was born before ICWA was passed into law. “During that time in the late 60s, there was a practice and policy of having Indian children placed off-

reservation in non-Indian homes,” she said. “I was basically sent off reservation as a baby.” Her non-Indian parents instilled an appreciation for her Native heritage and tried



Hilary Tompkins

hard to teach her about her background, Tompkins said, but she felt disconnected living in New Jersey among predominantly white people. She was 15 before she met another Native American

See ICWA on Page 6

Online gaming hot topic at symposium

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – With online gaming expansion looming on the horizon, attorneys and tribal gaming commissioners are trying to figure out how to make iGaming work for Indian Country.

“How am I going to make sure that this is legal and benefits the people it’s supposed to benefit?” Cherokee Nation gaming commissioner Jamie Hummingbird asked Thursday at the 26th annual Sovereignty Symposium. “It’s challenging enough when it’s just in one state. If we branch out into a multi-state or international game situation, it becomes even more complex.”

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Class II and III gaming is currently only allowed on Indian lands, leading some to question where exactly Internet gaming takes place.

“Tribes are shackled by the definition of ‘Indian lands’ in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act,” Tulsa, Okla., attorney Michael McBride said. “Where does the gaming occur? On the server? Where the bet is placed? Where the bet is taken?”

Currently, only three states – Delaware, Nevada and New Jersey – allow for Internet gaming servers to operate within their borders. More than 70 countries allow for online gaming servers, including the United Kingdom, France and Spain.

Earlier this year, the state of Oklahoma and the Janice Prairie

Chief- Boswell administration of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes signed a settlement agreement after the Concho, Okla.-based tribe attempted to launch an online poker site that featured Class II gaming, citing their compact’s inclusion of electronic games and non-house-banked card games. Signed in 2005, the compact does not explicitly refer to online gaming.

“Our position all along was that this was legal the entire time under the compact because it has an electronic component,” Cheyenne and Arapaho attorney Richard Grellner said. “The Wire Act says it is Class II, so it wouldn’t automatically be under the compact.”

The Wire Act is a federal law enacted in 1961 prohibiting the operation of certain types of betting businesses in the United States. The intention of the Act was to assist states in enforcing their respective laws on gambling and bookmaking and to curtail organized gambling activities.

Under the terms of the Tribes’ agreement, access to the site was shut down domestically, but is slated to be available internationally later this year. Had the tribe not agreed to take the site down, the state of Oklahoma would have pursued enforcement action, including financial penalties.

“If Internet gaming is lawful in Oklahoma, as a matter of law, prior to the execution of the settlement agreement, why was the settlement agreement necessary?” attorney Dean

Luthey asked. “If Internet gaming was unlawful as a matter of (state) law prior to the settlement agreement, can the settlement agreement cure that illegality?”

State officials have maintained that the online gaming ban applies to all Oklahoma tribes.

The two-day Symposium was held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel and hosted by the Oklahoma Supreme Court; the Indian law section of the Oklahoma Bar Association; and the law schools at the University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa and Oklahoma City University. The event averages about 600 attendees annually, making it one of the country’s largest Indian law meetings.

The Sovereignty Symposium was established to provide a forum in which ideas concerning common legal issues, including tribal law, can be exchanged in a scholarly, non-adversarial environment.

In addition to the discussion over the impact of online gaming on Indian Country, attendees were offered panels on the Indian Child Welfare Act, cross-deputization, economic development, and the Tribal Law and Order Act.

With a theme of “A Fair and Impartial Judiciary,” Symposium headliners included U.S. Rep Tom Cole (R-Okla.), former U.S. Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O’Connor and former University of Oklahoma football coach Barry Switzer, a former member of the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission.



Sandra Day O’Connor

judges are appointed and are largely shielded from politics, but she expressed concern about the practice in some state’s where judges are elected by popular vote, a process that subjects them to politics and the need to raise money to run a political campaign.

“I think that’s a very risky system,” O’Connor said. Political campaigns may make judges more responsive to the public they serve, but recent studies indicate judges who are elected to the bench are influenced by campaigns contributions, she said.

“I think that’s a serious judicial decision-making concern,” she said.

She also said judges need to police themselves to avoid any appearance of bias or impartiality.

“The best a judge can do is turn a high-powered lens back on themselves and try as hard as possible to practice good judgment about when their own impartiality might be compromised or questioned,” she said.

The Sovereignty Symposium was established to provide a forum in which ideas concerning common legal issues, including tribal law, can be exchanged in a scholarly, non-adversarial environment. Sponsors include the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Indian Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

JUSTICE

Continued from Page 1

public’s discussion about judicial decision-making is becoming more and more politicized.

O’Connor, who was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and served until her retirement from the court in 2006, said judges need to be recognized by their judicial skill, not their partisan credentials.

“The rule of law means that sometimes judges do precisely the opposite of what a majority of the public may want,” she said. “There are great judges who don’t share all of their instincts about the law. They’re constantly disappointing at least half of the people who come before them, because somebody has to lose.”

O’Connor said federal

Former DOI Sec. Salazar to work for international law firm in Denver

COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) – Former U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will start work next week as a partner in an international law firm that will allow him to remain in his home state and work on cases involving the energy industry he once regulated.

The former U.S. senator and Colorado attorney general

announced Thursday that he’s joining WilmerHale as a partner after interviewing with many law firms.

“This is where the top lawyers are in America, and they share my values and my commitment to social justice,” Salazar said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C.

He’ll start work Monday in Denver, where WilmerHale is opening an office.

Salazar said he’ll work on environmental, energy and tribal cases, as well as giving clients strategic advice and counseling. He didn’t know which clients he would represent yet and didn’t directly answer when asked whether he could end up opposing the Obama administration on energy issues.

Salazar said he would strive to be a “peacemaker”

on contentious energy issues and credited his policies as interior secretary for helping decrease the country’s reliance on imported energy.

As secretary, he tightened oversight of offshore drilling following the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, pushed for renewable energy such as solar and wind and helped settle a longstanding dispute with American Indians.

WilmerHale worked for

BP after the spill, but Salazar told The Denver Post that money made from the company will be segregated and he will not benefit from it.

“I said in 2010 I will put my boot on the neck of BP. ... I am not going to represent BP, and I’m not going to make any money from BP now or ever,” he told the newspaper, which first reported his new job.

WilmerHale has had other large corporate clients, such as Citigroup and Procter & Gamble, but it also is known for its pro bono work, including representing Guantanamo Bay prisoners and assisting South African lawyers who fought apartheid. Lawyers from the firm also served as special counsel to former presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.



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Note: Not all medicine wheels are the same from tribe to tribe. This medicine wheel is intended to be a general representation and does not refer to a specific tribe's symbol of the four directions.



COURTESY

An agriculture grant from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, a Prior Lake, Minn. tribe, is helping make a cattle program possible for Oklahoma's Ponca Tribe, which earlier used another grant to start a plasticulture garden like the one shown here. The tribe is located in an area of the state considered a "food desert" with the nearest grocery store at least 10 miles away.

SMSC grants make projects possible for smaller tribes

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. – Two Oklahoma tribes are among the 18 recipients of a combined \$10 million in grant money offered by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, which is based in Prior Lake.

Stemming from a cultural and social tradition of helping others in need, the Minnesota tribe has given away nearly \$272 million in profits from its gaming and non-gaming enterprises since 1992, including \$190 million in contributions to other tribes, tribal organizations and Native causes. The SMSC has also made more than \$509 million in economic development loans to other tribes.

"Helping tribes improve their

communities, expand their economies, and enhance their health and education offerings is central to the SMSC's role as a good neighbor to our fellow tribes," SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig said. "The needs in Indian Country are still widespread, and we want to help meet those needs as much as we can."

The Ponca Tribe, headquartered in White Eagle, Okla., received \$325,000 for its agriculture department's fledgling experimental cattle program that was launched earlier this year. Led by Amos Hinton, the tribe is working to breed and raise cattle that are as close to buffalo as possible, with minimal fat marbling.

"From our grant, we got money for cattle, equipment for hay and to help with our cattle program," Hinton

said. "It will take several years to get there, but we will get there.

Most of the Poncas' jurisdictional area in north-central Oklahoma is considered a food desert, with the nearest grocery store at least 10 miles away. Earlier this year, the tribe launched a plasticulture garden with the neighboring Otoe-Missouria tribe and received a separate grant through the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative to fund a chicken flock and egg laying production.

"I thank God that a tribe as influential as the Shakopees remember what is like to be poor," Hinton said. "It is truly amazing. I have the utmost respect for their tribal leaders, because they do help less financially fortunate tribes. I would have eventually gotten where I wanted to go, but it will take me a

lot less time now with their help."

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, headquartered in Seneca, Mo., adjacent to the Oklahoma-Missouri border, also received a \$400,000 grant. The tribe's grant writer did not respond to requests for comment or proposal details.

The SMSC's business council reviews grant applications on a monthly cycle, with funding preference given to tribes from the Northern Plains and Minnesota. All applications must be submitted in writing to the business council and be no longer than five pages, including a cover sheet.

– *Proposals to fund international travel, beauty pageants, film productions, small business loans and start-up costs will not be considered.*

Crazy Horse blast commemorates 65th anniversary

DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Crazy Horse Memorial sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski was busy rough shaping the 219-foot-tall horse's head when he died in 1982, leaving his dream of honoring the Oglala Lakota warrior with a mammoth mountain carving in South Dakota's Black Hills in his family's hands.

Widow Ruth Ziolkowski knew she had to keep the work going, but she decided to shift the focus to completing Crazy Horse's 90-foot-tall face to boost interest and bring in more donations.

"If Korczak had lived, he would have carved the horse's head. He could have explained why to everyone and the world would have been happy with it," said Ruth Ziolkowski, president and chief executive of the memorial. "But it made good sense to be able to prove to people that we really could carry on and keep it going."

The Crazy Horse Memorial on Tuesday commemorated the 65th anniversary of the monument's dedication –

and the 15th anniversary of the completion of the warrior's face – with a 654-ton morning blast.

Crazy Horse was a famed Oglala Lakota warrior and leader who played a key role in the 1876 defeat of the U.S. Seventh Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana. When completed, the carving of his image on a bluff about 10 miles southwest of Mount Rushmore will be 641 feet long and 563 feet high.

Work on the project, funded entirely by private donations, has been going on since 1948.

Tuesday explosive-charged rock removal, a ceremonial version of something that occurs throughout the year, cleared rock from the 360-foot bench directly underneath what will one day be the horse's muzzle.

Spaced 20 feet apart, the 11 benches on Korczak Ziolkowski's blueprints serve as access roads that will eventually allow carvers to perform finishing work on the horse's head, said mountain director Monique Ziolkowski, the sculptor's daughter.

As rough work continues on the final bench, finishing work will soon begin on the warrior's outstretched arm, which points to the sacred lands where Crazy Horse's ancestors have died.

"We're going to work from

the carving came from Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear, who was prompted by Gutzon Borglum's carving of nearby Mount Rushmore to seek a memorial for Indian heroes.

In addition to completing

America complex, where 32 students are about to start a fourth summer class program.

"It'll be a few years yet before we can do the degree-granting full-time program," Ruth Ziolkowski said. "It's



COURTESY

This model shows what the completed monument will look like. Finishing work will soon begin on the warrior's outstretched arm, which points to the sacred lands where Crazy Horse's ancestors have died.

Crazy Horse's hand down and we're going to concentrate on the front of the mountain, the visitors' side," Monique Ziolkowski said.

The invitation to undertake

the carved face, the Crazy Horse Memorial has built a welcome center, a comprehensive museum and one building of a planned Indian University of North

coming, and you have to take little steps first, as Korczak always said, in order to get to the big one.

"But the important thing is we never stopped."



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Interior allows more comments for drilling rule

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Companies that drill for oil and natural gas – and their critics – will have 60 more days to comment on a new rule regulating hydraulic fracturing operations on public lands.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced the extension Thursday after industry groups and environmentalists said they needed more time to digest a 171-page “fracking” rule issued last month.

The rule requires companies for the first time to disclose publicly the chemicals used in fracking operations. It also sets standards for proper construction of wells and disposal of wastewater.

Jewell called the rule a “common-sense update” that increases safety while also providing flexibility and improving coordination with states and Indian tribes. Drilling regulations were last changed in 1982.

Comments on the drilling proposal will be accepted through late August.

Feds toss Michigan complaint to ban Indian mascots

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – A federal agency has dismissed a complaint seeking to ban the use of American Indian mascots in Michigan’s K-12 schools.

In February, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights cited 35 Michigan school districts for discrimination, saying their mascots reinforce stereotypes and hurt American Indian students’ self-esteem and learning.

But the U.S. Education Department’s Office of Civil Rights denied the state’s complaint. Federal

officials say Michigan officials provided no specific examples of racial incidents or American Indian students suffering specific harm because of the reported discrimination.

The state civil rights department said June 3 it’s disappointed by the ruling and is considering its options.

Michigan’s complaint to the federal government has drawn criticism from Republican lawmakers who say it was misguided and done without input from communities.

Blackfeet judge expunges DUIs of senator’s brother

Those erased convictions by had the effect of reducing a felony charge to a misdemeanor.

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Months before a state senator and Blackfeet leader allegedly fled a sheriff’s deputy who suspected him of drunken driving, a tribal judge expunged two DUI convictions from the record of the senator’s brother and said the tribe shouldn’t have reported them to the state.

Those erased convictions by Chief Judge Allie Edwards had the effect of reducing a felony charge to a misdemeanor in the case of Shawn Augare, who had been facing his fourth DUI for a stop on Dec. 31, 2011, in Glacier County off the reservation.

As a result, District Judge Laurie McKinnon – now a state Supreme Court justice – ordered Augare on Nov. 14 to pay a \$400 fine for his new DUI misdemeanor conviction instead of a possible sentence of 13 months with the Department of Corrections for felony DUI.

The cases of Augare and his brother, Democratic state Sen. Shannon Augare, illustrate the difficult and sometimes confusing jurisdictional issues facing law-enforcement officers operating on or near Native American reservations, which are sovereign nations with their own laws, police and justice systems.

The state Department of Transportation’s Montana Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan of 2012 attempted to enlist the help of tribal law enforcement to reduce Native American fatal crashes, noting that 67 percent of those involving Native Americans are related to drunken driving. That plan emphasized increased data sharing among tribal, state and local entities as a strategy to help reduce crashes.

“Patterns of traffic violations are always a threat to public safety, and it is important for the state to have an accurate picture of every Montana driver’s history,” attorney general spokesman John Barnes said Monday.

But the ability of tribes to make such policy is a matter of tribal law, he said.

The Blackfeet tribal judge’s decision in October said tribal law enforcement officers have no legal authority to send any record of traffic offenses committed on the reservation to the state, and doing so in Shawn Augare’s case violated his rights.

In her order, Edwards cited a tribal appellate court ruling in a separate case that said a tribal resolution establishes that all jurisdiction lies within the tribal judicial system and “no license and/or driving record is to be sent into the state of Montana.”

“There is no law in the Blackfeet Law and Order Code allowing Law Enforcement to suspend (drivers’ licenses) and/or send records to the State of Montana,” the appellate court’s July 10, 2012, order says.

The Blackfeet tribal justice system handles offenses committed by tribal members on the northwestern Montana



State Senator Shannon Augare

reservation. Edwards was appointed to her position by the ruling Blackfeet Tribal Business Committee, of which Shannon Augare is a member, and can be removed by that committee or the tribe’s Law and Order Committee, of which Shannon Augare also is a member.

Edwards said Monday it has been tribal policy not to report DUIs and other offenses to the state since 1999 or 2000, but her October ruling says Blackfeet tribal law enforcement officers recently had been sending the state records of action in traffic violations on the reservation.

Edwards declined to comment on how the appellate court’s ruling on handing over traffic reports to the state justified erasing Shawn Augare’s two convictions in 2000 from tribal records, or whether those prior convictions had been made in error.

Neither Shannon nor Shawn Augare returned calls for comment Monday.

On May 26, a Glacier

County deputy pulled over Shannon Augare on U.S. Highway 2 nine miles west of Cut Bank and within the reservation’s boundaries. The deputy identified Shannon Augare as a tribal councilman and observed that he appeared to be impaired and that an “overwhelming odor” of alcohol came from the vehicle, the sheriff’s office said in a statement on May 29.

Shannon Augare then allegedly said the deputy had no jurisdiction and he was going to leave. The deputy told him not to leave and tried to take his keys, but Shannon Augare drove off, the sheriff’s office said.

The deputy did not pursue Shannon Augare, and the sheriff’s office has turned over the case to the tribe. Tribe chief prosecutor Carl Pepion did not return a call for comment Monday, but previously said he would determine whether to file charges after an investigation was completed.

Glacier County authorities accused Shawn Augare of his fourth drunken-driving offense on Dec. 31, 2011. His trial was put off and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest in July when his public defender could not locate him, according to court documents.

He appeared in August with a new lawyer, and a Nov. 20 trial date was set. Less than a week before the trial, Shawn Augare gave the Glacier County attorney Edwards’ order expunging two of his previous DUIs, and the charges were reduced to a misdemeanor in a plea agreement.

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5 Montana reservations don't report DUIs to state

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Five of Montana's seven American Indian reservations don't report drunken-driving convictions to the state, and county prosecutors say the information void poses a safety risk for both repeat offenders and other drivers. Tribal justice systems generally have jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes committed by Native Americans on reservations, and a DUI becomes a felony in Montana only upon a person's fourth offense. That means the state has no ability to force tribal courts to share their misdemeanor DUI conviction records with Montana's Motor Vehicle Division, said attorney general spokesman John Barnes.

Only the Flathead and Fort Peck reservations voluntarily share DUI conviction records, Barnes said. Those that withhold DUI records are the Blackfeet, Crow, Fort Belknap, Northern Cheyenne and Rocky Boy's reservations. Glacier County attorney Carolyn Berkram, whose county includes all of the Blackfeet reservation in northwestern Montana, said she was shocked to learn so many tribes don't report DUIs to the state. That means police don't know how many people with unreported DUIs who may need treatment are sharing the road with other drivers, she said.

"I think that this is a terrible policy and I don't think it serves any Montanans well, whether they're tribal members or not," Berkram said. Big Horn County attorney

Georgette Boggio, whose territory abuts the Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations, said the lack of data means the level of risk to the public is unknown.

"It's hard to know what impact it's having, except the folks who are committing those crimes aren't getting the help they need as soon as they get it," Boggio said.

Four of the five tribal governments did not respond to queries by The Associated Press. Blackfeet chief prosecutor Carl Pepion declined to comment.

It's not just a Montana problem. There are 324 federally recognized American Indian reservations, and many have faced the same issues. For example, a 2007 report prepared for the South Dakota Department of Transportation found that only 52 of 737 crashes on tribal lands were included in the state's Accident Reporting System.

In New Mexico, a 2011 Department of Public Safety report identified criminal jurisdiction and law-enforcement coordination between state and tribal officers as an area of primary concern.

"More consistent and coordinated law enforcement efforts would go a long way in reducing DWI, drug-related crimes, and domestic violence, violence against children, and other violent crimes," the report said.

The Montana Department of Transportation's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan of 2012 attempted to enlist the help of tribal law enforcement to reduce Native American fatal crashes, noting that 67 percent of those crashes involving Native Americans are related to drunken driving. That

plan emphasized increased data sharing among tribal, state and local entities as a new strategy to help reduce crashes.

But it has become entangled in questions of tribal sovereignty, and just what tribal governments are willing to share with the state.

"I think there is always sovereignty issues we need to respect, but we also need to make sure that Montanans are safe on the highways," Gov. Steve Bullock said Friday.

"That may end up one of the issues on the agenda, but we have not set any meeting in the future," he added.

Tribal jurisdiction was put in the spotlight after Democratic state Sen. Shannon Augare, who is also a Blackfeet tribal council member, was pulled over by a Glacier County sheriff's deputy on the reservation May 26 for suspicion of drunken driving.

Augare told the deputy he had no jurisdiction to arrest him and drove away as the deputy attempted to take Augare's keys, according to the sheriff's office.

The county has turned the case over to tribal authorities, who have not decided whether to pursue charges.

Months before Augare's traffic stop, a Blackfeet tribal judge expunged two DUIs from the record of Augare's brother, Shawn, effectively reducing a felony DUI charge Shawn Augare was facing in Cut Bank to a misdemeanor.

Chief Judge Allie Edwards said in her October decision that tribal law enforcement officers who sent records of those previous DUI convictions to the state violated his rights.

Adding to the tension is a

March 3 memo to Blackfeet tribal police issued by Shannon Augare, who is the head of the tribe's Law and Order Committee. The memo orders Blackfeet tribal police not to call for non-tribal law-enforcement assistance unless no tribal officers are available.

"If another law enforcement jurisdiction arrives on the scene, the (tribal officer) shall professionally and politely ask them to leave the scene," Augare's memo reads.

Augare has not spoken publicly since the May 26 traffic stop. He again declined to comment on Friday.

"If I have something to say

I will certainly call back, but please quit calling my phone and leaving messages," he told a reporter before hanging up.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead reservation in western Montana take a different tack. The tribes have an agreement with the state, its four adjacent counties and cities on the reservation that allows any law enforcement officer to ticket any person pulled over in the reservation.

Non-tribal officers can write tribal members tickets for which they appear in tribal court, while tribal officers can write non-tribal

members tickets that go to county courts, said tribal police Capt. Louis Fiddler.

The retrocession agreement with the state was first signed in 1994 and the nearby counties and cities have since been added to it.

The tribe maintains exclusive jurisdiction over its members in all misdemeanor cases and the various agencies can pool their resources, Fiddler said.

"Before everybody signed on, I'd have to travel all the way across the county because a non-Indian officer couldn't write a speeding ticket," he said.

Now, jurisdictional issues are obsolete, he said.

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TRUST

Continued from Page 1

oil and gas leases and the implications of an IIM account's termination. The drafts currently focus on the federal government's responsibilities to tribes and tribally-held trust assets.

"The issue I have with the regulations is that concerns of the individual aren't addressed," Kiowa citizen Kathy Ware-Perosi said. "Tribes will always get preference – and that's fine, I understand that – but the regulations put a dim light on helping the individual."

The commission is also working in conjunction with the American Indian College Fund and the DOI to implement the remaining components of the Cobell decision, including the establishment of a scholarship fund. However, the commission's hands are tied when it comes to one of the more high profile aspects of the decision.

"There are several different components of implementation," Designated Federal Officer

Lizzie Marsters said. "One is disbursement of payments. That is all being done by Garden City. We're not involved in that process. I know there's a lot of concern out there (about the settlement fund disbursement) but we can't address it too much."

Headquartered in Lake Success, N.Y., the Garden City Group was appointed by the court to handle the distribution of more than 500,000 settlement checks. Under the settlement, any requests for eligibility reconsideration must be postmarked by July 1, along with documentation.

The commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Aug. 17 and 19 in Anchorage, Alaska. Anyone interested in providing suggestions for the committee's final draft are asked to submit their comments by Labor Day to trustcommission@ios.doi.gov. Working copies of the committee's proposals are available online at www.doi.gov/cobell/commission/index.cfm.

– For settlement updates, visit www.indiantrust.com

COUPLE

Continued from Page 1

marriage is prohibited in Michigan, but federally recognized Native American tribes are self-governing and aren't bound by state law.

Barfield and LaCroix, who live in Boyne City, say they were surprised to receive the invitation and canceled a scheduled trip to California so that they could go to Washington.

It's particularly gratifying for Barfield, who marched on the White House 20 years ago and returned his service medals from his time in the U.S. Navy to protest

the military's former "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which allowed gays to serve but not to be open about their sexual orientation. It was repealed in 2011.

"So now we're going to have cookies and milk with the chief executive?" he said. "We're always going to be in shock about this."

The federal Defense of Marriage Act lets states refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in states that allow them, although the law is being challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court. The outcome of that case could affect a pending suit in Detroit that contends Michigan's ban violates the U.S. Constitution.

ICWA

Continued from Page 1

person, she said.

"You feel very, very alone," she added.

After college she went back to the Navajo Nation and felt unwelcome, further adding to the feeling of alienation.

That sentiment was echoed by Seanna Pieper-Jordan, a Native Hawaiian and Blackfeet Nation tribal member who grew up in the foster care system.

When she returned to the reservation as an adult, the question of being "Indian enough" often came up since she didn't grow up there and didn't know the traditions and stories.

"When you're disconnected from it, how do you go back and learn it?" she said, adding that the trauma of feeling alone will affect her the rest of her life.

ICWA has been a hot-button issue across the country. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to decide soon whether the law allows an unwed Native American father to take custody of his daughter, who was adopted by a non-Indian couple. In South Dakota, two tribal governments have filed a federal lawsuit against the state, accusing the South Dakota Department of Social Services, a judge and a local state's attorney of violating the law by holding improper hearings after children are removed from homes.

FEATHER

Continued from Page 1

and official transcript. She's accused of violating school policy.

A school contract says students and staff are not allowed to wear extra items during graduation unless they're approved in advance by the administration.

Ramer said she asked the school's headmaster

for permission to wear the feather and was denied. In response, Ramer didn't sign the contract and wore the feather anyway.

"It was worth it. It means a lot to me," she said.

The school headmaster didn't return a message seeking comment Thursday.

A school newsletter thanked the Poarch Band in April for making more than \$142,000 in donations to the academy.

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Re-Advertisement-SECURITY SUPERVISOR-The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting applications for the Security Supervisor. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Experience required in Security or Law Enforcement Field. All training documents, license or certificates are required. Knowledge of methods and objectives of Security work; communicating effectively; minimum typing skills and some knowledge of computers. Familiarization with Local, State, Tribal and Federal Laws. **REQUIREMENTS:** No prior felony convictions. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug test. EOE UP PL-93-638

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THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrrc.org

THROUGH JULY 14

Cherokee Women in Art exhibit, Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville. Exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

JUNE 12

1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Three Rivers Health Center in Muskogee is hosting the “Living Longer, Living Stronger with Chronic Conditions Workshop,” which will continue on June 19 and 26 and July 3, 10 and 17. The workshop is free to Native Americans suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma and arthritis. Space is limited. Call 918-781-6501.

11 p.m. to 7 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Claremore to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship applications. Northeast Technology Center, 1901 N. State Route 88. For more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

JUNE 13

1 p.m. to 7 p.m. – College Resource specialists will be in Grove to help students complete Cherokee Nation scholarship

applications. NEO A&M College, Room 114, 1201 NEO Loop. For more information, email ashlee-chaudoin@cherokee.org or call 918-316-4865.

JUNE 14-15

Auditions for the musical, NANYEHI-BELOVED WOMAN OF THE CHEROKEE at the Council Chambers at the Cherokee Nation Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK. For times and more information contact Ms. Hobbs at beckaroomusic@comcast.net or 615 383-0041.

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health Services and Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah will host the Day of Champions Football Camp. The free camp is open to everyone ages 8-14 and lasts through June 15. For more information, call 918-207-4977.

JUNE 14-16

Eastern Band Cherokee Powwow, Acquoni Expo Center, Cherokee, North Carolina. Contest powwow with over \$60,000 in prizes. For more Information visit online at travel@nc-cherokee.com or call 1-800-438-1601

JUNE 14 - 22

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival events at various locations. For information visit <http://creekfestival.com/event-calendar/>

JUNE 15

18th annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Games at OWU in Bartlesville. The girls game begins at 6 pm and the boys follow at around 8pm. For more information contact Sharon Lee or Laryn Bierig at 918.642.3162

Credit Clarity Saturday. What does your credit report say about you? Come find out! 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Hicks Community Center, 3443 S. Mingo, Tulsa. Free credit reports can be pulled on site. Free one on one review of your report with a credit professional. Free info on finances and home buying.

JUNE 19

Intertribal Youth Celebration (rescheduled from June 5) 9 am - 2pm at Iowa Tribal Complex. Wellness event for Native youth ages 1st-12th grade.

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com Website:www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 22

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. – General election for Cherokee Nation Tribal Council seats. Voters must cast their votes at their designated voting locations, which will have been previously delivered in the mail. For more information, call the Cherokee Nation Election Commission, 918-458-5899.

JUNE 25-27

UKB Summer Health Events - children's health assessments, CPR certification, health seminars and cultural exchanges. Events at Kenwood School, UKB Wellness Center and Jay Community Building. For more information, call Carrie Haney at 918-456-8698 or Kathy White at 918-458-6708.

JUNE 27

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Cherokee

NationHealth Services will be in Muskogee distributing free gunlocks as part of the Youth Suicide Means Restriction Campaign. Three Rivers Health Center, 1001 S. 41st St. East. For more information, call Mindy Hanson, 918-889-0981.

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribes.com Website:www.tonikawatribes.com

JUNE 29, 2013

Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JUNE 29

Echota Baptist Church 100th Anniversary Celebration and open gospel singing beginning at 10 a.m. Hog fry dinner, more singing and history display. Everyone welcome. Info call Frank Swimmer 918-616-2742.

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-6

Thunderbird Casino 26th Annual Powwow, Norman. Intertribal dancing only July 4th. All contestants must dance in Grand Entry and Intertribal dancing

Love of comics ignites creative career

BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

DURANT, Okla. – J. Dylan Cavin, a comic book kid from Chickasha, has accomplished a goal many only contemplate. He has turned what he loves into his career, producing impressive results along the way.

Cavin is a multi-talented artist, able not only to put paint to canvas, but pixel to screen, shape to mold, and even ink to skin. His work has been featured on everything from personal effects to commercial placement.

Cavin and his talents will also be showcased at this year's Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., June 21 and 22.

Immersion in the universe of art came early for Cavin, winning his first contest in middle school and having his picture in the paper for this drawing of the Statue of Liberty. He was drawn further into the realm of art when he was introduced to comics at the age of 10. "I became completely swallowed up by them," Cavin declared.

Cavin reminisces of times when he and his buddy would make high contrast photocopies of comics and color them in with markers. These actions inevitably led to completely redrawing images and eventually art classes to hone his newly discovered skills.

As he made his way through Noble School, Cavin was fortunate to have the support of his instructors. "I had a couple of really great art teachers in high school that saw something in me," Cavin mentioned. "I certainly never felt like I was the most talented in the class but I was always attentive and a good student willing to learn."

He decided to continue his exploration of art in college. Cavin earned an Art Talent scholarship with his artistic abilities, which led him to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2000 and pursued a career in graphic design.

"I feel like I got a very well-rounded education," Cavin said. "I had a really great core group of professors

that helped along the way." However, he wasn't prepared for the stress that can come with being a professional graphic designer. Upon graduating, Cavin began

his work. The positive reception he received boosted his confidence and led him further into the mediums of watercolor and portraits. "I had never thought doing that would get

When he is not in the studio, he is reading comic books, the medium that sparked his interest in art many years ago. He is an avid collector of comic books and comic art to this



Dylan Cavin's "Legacy" piece was featured on this year's annual Red Earth Festival marketing materials and collectable t-shirts.

COURTESY

working for a company where he did full service product design. He would draw the concept art, digitize and color it for the printer, and then create the packaging and catalog artwork for the final physical copy.

Though he felt this was a rewarding job, he would have anywhere from five to 10 of these projects occurring simultaneously and he burnt out.

After a brief stint in the Army, Cavin says he had some time to explore creative aspects past graphic design. "It was the first time in awhile where my time was really my own," he said.

He began to take pictures, invested time in watercolor and even learned the art of tattooing.

"I really love the looseness of watercolor and the expression you can achieve with just the right single brushstroke," he said. As he produced paintings, he began to receive recognition for his skill.

Friends who own galleries took notice and invited him to display

me anywhere. I'm still amazed and honored when people purchase a work from me," said Cavin.

Cavin currently shows at Tribes Gallery in Norman, where he says he feels fortunate to display his work along with artists with which he is proud to associate himself.

Among his abundance of artistic creations, there is one he holds in high esteem. It is a portrait of C.A. Burris (aka Ahshawlatab). "I love it because, in my eyes, I nailed the style of my favorite comic book artist," exclaimed Cavin.

His portfolio also boasts an array of award-winning pieces. His accolades include the Heritage Award in 2010, Best in Show at the 2012 Annual Choctaw Art Show and First Place in the Graphics Category at the 2012 Red Earth Festival. His works have also been on the cover of the Oklahoma Today Magazine.

Cavin now spends much time in the studio, creating, learning and expanding his artistic prowess.

Creek language play premiering during tribal festival

LETA RECTOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. – "The Dawes Commission," the latest stage play by director and playwright Bob Hicks will have its world premiere 8 p.m., June 15 during the Muscogee Creek Nation Festival in Okmulgee.

"The Dawes Commission" is almost entirely in the Muscogee language with subtitles shown in Power Point.

"There are a lot of stories in Indian history that are harmful," Hicks said. "This story about allotment has interested me for a long time."

Set in 1904, the story focuses on a Muscogee family who is visited by an agent from the Dawes Commission. The agent's orders are to persuade the Creeks to accept allotment.

"But the Indians were happy with their situation," Hicks said.

The Nation's Language Preservation Group and the cast members translated the play into the Creek language.

Hicks, an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, is a graduate of Hollywood's American Film Institute in the Directors' program.

Repeat performances of "The Dawes Commission" will held at 8 p.m. at the Muscogee Creek Nation Complex Mound Building June 20 and 21.

For more information on the festival, visit <http://creekfestival.com/>



Bob Hicks

26th ANNIVERSARY

THUNDERBIRD CASINO POW WOW

JULY 4-5-6, 2013 • Little Axe, OK

MC: SAMMY "TONE-KEI" WHITE

HEAD MAN DANCER: WOLFY LEITKA

HEAD LADY DANCER: LESLIE REALRIDER

HEAD SINGER: FOREST WALKER

HEAD GOURD DANCER: ADAM PROCTOR

ARENA DIRECTOR: SAM HOWELL

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SUPPER EVERY EVENING @ 5PM

ARTS AND CRAFT VENDORS WELCOME

CALL: LEONARD LONGHORN 405-481-0674 or

SUE BLANCHARD 405-312-4621

All contestants must be in full regalia and number in full display during

Grand Entry each night and dance July 4th during inter-tribal dancing.

All decisions made by the powwow committee are final.

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TWO RIVERS CASINO

Where the money flows

FRIDAY NIGHT DJ JAM FEST

Featuring
DJ Jo Jo & DJ G-Money
JO JO BASS & GEORGE ALEXANDER
7:00 PM - 1:30 AM
JUNE 14 @ THE EDGE
TWO RIVERS CASINO • 101 WHITE EAGLE DRIVE • PONCA CITY

Inside this issue:

- NM museum names new director
- Obama nominates Cherokee for post
- Cartoonist tackles Native issues



NATIVE TIMES

Federal court voids death sentence in Indian Country

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – A federal appeals court has reversed the death sentences of an Oklahoma man who pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree murder because the crimes occurred in Indian Country and the state lacked the authority to prosecute him.

Friday, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voided David Magnan’s convictions and ordered that he be released from state custody, but a three-judge panel said they presumed that federal authorities would arrest and prosecute Magnan “given the nature of the crimes and Magnan’s admitted guilt.”

Attorney General Scott Pruitt’s office was reviewing the decision on Friday “to determine our options,” spokeswoman Diane Clay said. One of those options is to request a rehearing before all nine members of the Denver-based court.

Magnan, 50, pleaded guilty in Seminole County District Court to three counts of first-degree murder and one count of shooting with intent to kill in a March 3, 2004, shooting in which three people died and a fourth was injured at a house in rural Seminole County. He was sentenced to death on each murder count and received a life sentence on the remaining count.

See COURT on Page 2

Oklahoma governor meets directly with tribal leaders

■ However, Fallin did not answer any press questions. The meeting was closed to non-elected officials, including attorneys, tax commissioners and reporters.



Gov. Mary Fallin

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – More than 25 tribal leaders met with Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin Tuesday, June 11 at River Spirit Event Center to discuss concerns over expiring tobacco compacts.

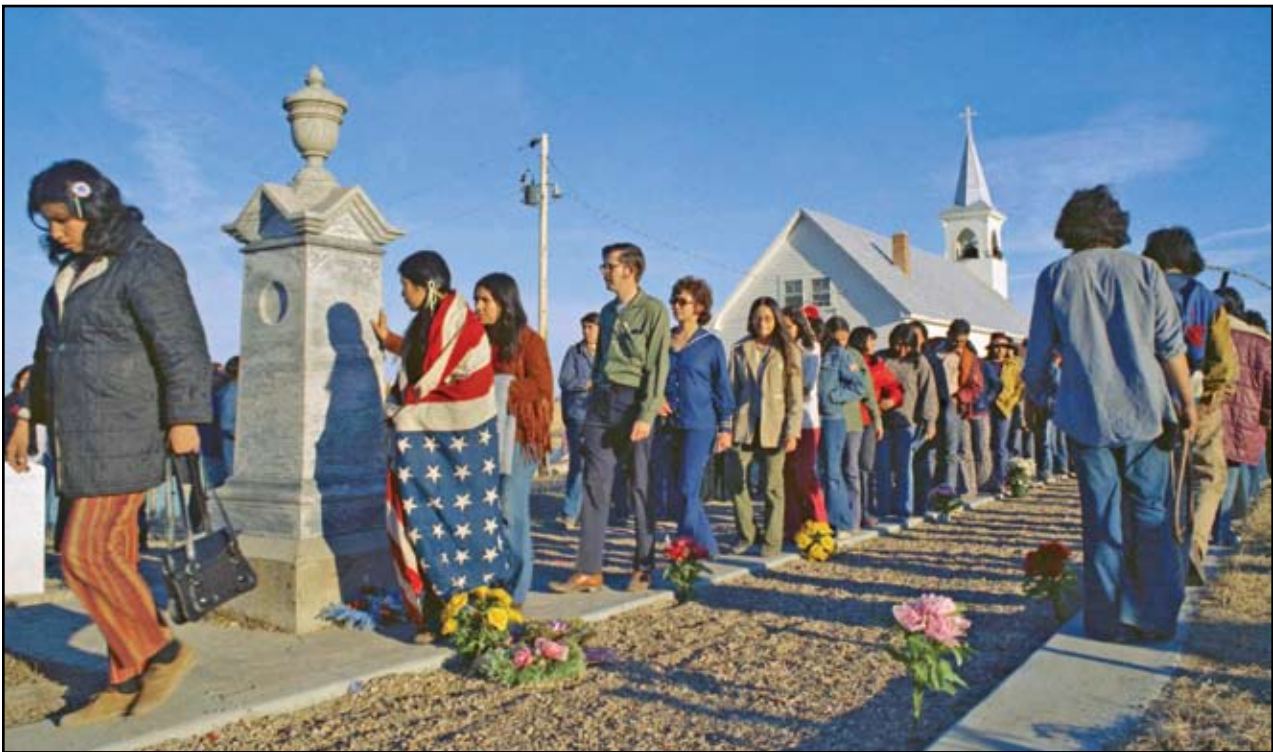
“We’re very encouraged by what we were able to share with the governor on our concerns on a government-to-government relationship,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said. “We believe this is a good start. One of the things we’ve

proposed to the governor was having the ability for tribal nations to visit with her twice per year so we can all be on the same page on issues.”

The United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, which counts almost 50 tribal governments among its members, facilitated the face-to-face meeting, as tobacco compacts for all but a handful of Oklahoma’s 38 federally recognized tribes expire June 30. Despite a written request from more than 20 tribes to extend existing compacts

See GOVERNOR on Page 6

Wounded Knee sold?



ASSOCIATED PRESS | FILE

A general view of Wounded Knee, South Dakota on March 27, 1973 during negotiations between members of the American Indian Movement and Federal Agents.

Group, attorney meets with land owner

BRANDON ECOFFEY
Native Sun News

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Wounded Knee will end up in the hands of the Oglala Lakota people. The question that remains however is “will it be an individual tribal member or the tribal government?”

According to sources with access to the negotiations and a high ranking official in the Oglala Sioux Tribe, talks are underway for the purchase of the 40 acre tract of land at the national

historic site of Wounded Knee and the other 40 acre lot at Porcupine Butte. The deal could go through as early as the end of this week.

The two sites that were put up for sale by land owner Jim Czywczynski for a total of \$4.9 million are located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. The Wounded Knee site is the place where the United States government massacred approximately 300 Hunkpapa and Mnicoujou Lakota in 1890, and is also where the 1973

takeover by the American Indian Movement occurred.

According to sources within the tribal government, the tribe is currently working with a financial backer who represents a large national organization whose sole purpose is the preservation of national historic sites. The organization would purchase the land on behalf of the tribe and then donate it to them. The organization is currently collecting the necessary

See LAND on Page 6

S.D. taking aim at sex trade

■ Officials are particularly worried about Native American victims. The only case to have moved through federal court in recent years involved a man who ran a gang on the reservation. But officials suspect there are more cases.

JOHN HULT
Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The first time Jessica met a man for sex in a hotel room, she wept.

He didn’t seem to care. And by the time she walked out of the room, she didn’t either.

“I was never the same after that first call,” Jessica tells the Argus Leader. “That’s when numb came. After that, I’d already done it.”

Jessica didn’t set out to become a prostitute – but by the time she had turned a trick, it felt like her only choice. She thought she had found a new life after an abusive childhood and marriage. She was with a man who had given her a car and had helped her get into a house. She felt safe, and quit her two jobs, confident he would take care of her and her children.

Instead, Jessica found herself

caught in a web of drug addiction, abuse and sex for hire. Trapped by intimidation, fear and addiction, she spent almost a year in the sex trade before finding a way out.

Jessica is not the woman’s real name. The Argus Leader is not using her name because she is an abuse victim.

Jessica’s boyfriend introduced her to hard drugs – and she became hooked. Then he began demanding payment for the life she was living.

If she couldn’t pay, she’d be out on the street.

So Jessica asked a friend for help.

“I said, ‘How am I supposed to

See SEX on Page 4

Methodist minister challenges Okla. license plate

SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – When Oklahoma looked to redesign its license plate five years ago, the iconic image of a young Apache warrior shooting an arrow skyward depicted in Allen Houser’s “Sacred Rain Arrow” statue was a clear choice of a public that looked at more 40 designs that featured Native American art, cowboy images and western and wildlife themes.

Tourism officials hailed the license plate as a

traveling billboard for Oklahoma, and the image was deemed the best license plate in the nation in 2009 by the American License Plate Collectors Association.

But a Methodist minister claims the plate is an affront to his Christian beliefs, and a federal appeals court ruled last week that the minister’s case can proceed.

“I think it’s important to understand that whether it was a Native American



Oklahoma license plates feature an Allen Houser sculpture titled “Sacred Rain Arrow.”

symbol or a symbol of any other faith, the issue would be the same,” said Keith

Cressman, pastor at the St. Marks United Methodist Church in Bethany.

Cressman referred additional questions to his attorney, Nathan Kellum of the Memphis, Tenn.-based Center for Religious Expression.

Kellum said his client isn’t asking the state to get rid of the roughly 2.9 million license plates on the road that feature the image, only that his client be given another option to place on his vehicle.

“He simply wants to avoid placing the tag with the

objectionable image on his car,” Kellum said. “Whether that is through an alternative plate without an additional cost, or just some method in which he would not have to be a mobile billboard for the state’s message against his will.”

Oklahoma Department of Corrections inmates manufacture license plates at a cost to the state of about \$2 each, according to the Tax Commission.

Oklahoma has more than 200 specialty license plates

See PLATE on Page 3

High court rejects Texas water claim, tribes declare victory

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – Two Oklahoma tribes are celebrating a Supreme Court decision to reject a north Texas claim to water on the other side of the Red River. In a joint statement issued Thursday afternoon, Greg Pyle, chief of the Choctaw Nation, and Bill Anoatubby, governor of the Chickasaw Nation, praised the Supreme Court’s decision in Tarrant Regional Water District v. Herrmann to uphold two lower court rulings preventing the 11-county

district from buying more than 150 million gallons of southern Oklahoma’s water from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. “This decision is a great victory for everyone in the state of Oklahoma,” the statement said. “The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations joined Oklahoma in this case because we share a vital interest in protecting water resources in southeastern Oklahoma. We believe this decision will enable us to build on our efforts to work together with the state to protect and manage these water resources.”

The two tribes had filed friend of the court briefs in the case, as the Red River runs along the southern boundary of their jurisdictional areas. The tribes still have pending water rights litigation against Oklahoma concerning the use of Sardis Lake, the Kiamichi Basin, Clear Boggy Basin and Atoka Lake. Oklahoma City has been receiving water from those locations for several years without the tribes’ approval. Oklahoma City receives about half of its water supply from lakes and reservoirs within the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations.



FILE
The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations still have pending water rights litigation against Oklahoma concerning use of Sardis Lake, the Kiamichi Basin, Clear Boggy Basin and Atoka Lake.

Oglala Sioux tribal citizens to vote on Pine Ridge alcohol ban

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – A Native American tribe that has long battled the devastating effects of alcoholism is planning to ask its tribal members whether it should legalize alcohol on its South Dakota reservation. The Oglala Sioux tribal council voted 9-7 Tuesday, June 11, to bring the question of legalizing alcohol on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to a public vote. “I’m just really frightened for our children and our elders,” said tribal council member Danielle Labeau, who voted no to bringing the issue to a public vote. “No amount of money can pay for the damages done to our babies, our children. When it comes to alcohol, when people are under the influence, they make horrible decisions. Not a million, billion dollars can ever undue the bad decisions people make when they are

under the influence.” Federal law bans the sale of alcohol on Indian reservations unless the tribal council allows it. Alcohol was legalized on the reservation for two months in 1970, but the ban was restored two months later. An attempt to allow it in 2004 died after an outcry. A date for the vote has not been set, but Labeau said she anticipates it taking place in about six months. Alcoholism is rampant on the reservation and is often identified as the culprit for the high rates of suicide, violence, infant mortality and unemployment among tribal members on the impoverished reservation. People sneak in beer and liquor from nearby border towns such as Whiteclay, Neb. A lawsuit the tribe brought last year against four beer sellers in Whiteclay and some of the nation’s biggest breweries was ultimately dismissed. The tribe alleges that the businesses were

profiting from the alcoholism on the reservation. The question of legalizing alcohol for revenue for the tribe has caused deep division among tribal members. Tribal council member Lydia Bear Killer is opposed to alcohol, but it is already present on the dry reservation, so the tribe should focus on making revenue from it, she said. “These off-reservation establishments are getting rich, and we’re dealing with the social crisis,” she said. “We need safe houses, we need detox centers. They’re selling to us and we’re making them rich and a penny of it doesn’t come back to us.” If tribal members decide to lift the ban, the Oglala Sioux Tribe would regulate and operate the alcohol sales, Bear Killer said. The tribe could see as much as \$10 million a year in revenue from the sales, she said. But profiting off of tribal members – even if it’s to

provide treatment – is disgraceful, said Olowan Sara Martinez, an activist who regularly holds protests in Whiteclay. “I think they are a bunch of cannibals who want to live off the misery of their own people,” she said of the tribal council members who supported the public vote. She added that she is certain tribal members will vote against allowing alcohol. A message left with Oglala Sioux President Bryan Brewer was not immediately returned. He has said in the past that he opposes legalizing alcohol on the reservation. The tribe also recently voted to create ports of entry at every reservation entry point to try to decrease the amount of alcohol coming on to the reservation.

New Mexico Indian arts museum hires new director

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – The New Mexico Museum of Indian Arts and Culture has hired a citizen of Oklahoma’s Otoe-Missouria Tribe as its new director. The museum announced the appointment of Della Warrior on Thursday. Her selection was the result of a national search. Warrior served as president of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe from 1998 through 2006. Under her leadership, the school received national accreditation for its two- and four-year academic degree programs. She also was elected as the first female chairwoman of her tribe. She served as the tribe’s CEO and implemented a tribal law and court system.



Della Warrior
In 2007, Warrior was inducted into the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame. She earned a master’s degree in education from Harvard University and a bachelor’s in sociology from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

COURT

Continued from Page 1
All of the victims except one were citizens of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Magnan, a citizen of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, appealed his convictions and sentences claiming that the crimes occurred on Indian land and that, therefore, Oklahoma could not prosecute him. In a 36-page opinion, the court agreed - ruling that the land on which the shootings occurred was historically Indian land over which the federal government, not

the state, has prosecutorial authority. “We conclude that the tract, at the time of Magnan’s crimes, was ‘Indian country,’ and that exclusive jurisdiction over those crimes rests with the United States,” the decision states. The ruling reverses a decision by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, which affirmed a Seminole County judge who ruled that the crimes did not occur in Indian Country and that the state’s criminal jurisdiction was proper. The federal court’s ruling hinges on the conveyance history of land that was originally part of a 200-acre piece of property allotted

in the early 20th century to a full-blooded member of the Seminole Nation. The property passed to his heirs, one of whom decided to buy the other heirs’ stake in the land and build a home there. The killings took place at that home. However, that heir never obtained approval of the secretary of interior, as required by law, to remove restrictions on the portions of the property that were purchased. Because of that, the purchased property was still considered Indian land, the court ruled. Magnan is currently being held on death row at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester.

“Celebration Dance for Our Children” Sponsored by Oklahoma Evolution Foundation with support from Circle of Wisdom

Pawnee Wellness Center, Pawnee, OK
June 22nd, 2013

Gourd Dancing ~ 2:00 p.m.
Speakers before supper
Supper break ~ 5:30 p.m.
Speakers after supper
Grand Entry ~ 7:00 p.m.

The Celebration of Dance for Our Children is a community effort to raise awareness for our children’s future with careers that will be showcased by our special guest professional speakers from all areas of care.

DANCE CONTESTS WITH PRIZE MONEY
Tiny tots (6 & under)
Women’s & men’s traditional
Teen boy’s & girl’s traditional
Elementary boy’s & girl’s traditional

Role Model speakers will be given 5 minutes per speaker to provide information and hand outs about their professional career. We envision the speakers to educate our children with awareness of the different careers that are attainable. We are excited to offer this fun, safe and family-friendly event to the Pawnee area with educational & vendor booths and role model speak outs. An “iPad mini with case” drawing will be held for all school age children whom are in attendance for all speakers with a sign in sheet required.

For more information please contact:
Helen Norris 918.762.3776 or
June Hamilton 918.306.1148

26th ANNIVERSARY

THUNDERBIRD CASINO POW WOW

JULY 4-5-6, 2013 • Little Axe, OK

MC: SAMMY “TONE-KEI” WHITE

HEAD MAN DANCER: WOLFY LEITKA

HEAD LADY DANCER: LESLIE REALRIDER

HEAD SINGER: FOREST WALKER

HEAD GOURD DANCER: ADAM PROCTOR

ARENA DIRECTOR: SAM HOWELL

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE COLOR GUARD

SUPPER EVERY EVENING @ 5PM

ARTS AND CRAFT VENDORS WELCOME

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NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS, INJURIES AND LOSSES • DRUGS, ALCOHOL ARE PROHIBITED

Obama nominates Cherokee to ambassador-rank post

■ If confirmed by the Senate, Keith Harper would be the first Native American in an ambassador post.

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama has nominated Cherokee Nation citizen Keith Harper of Washington, D.C., to an ambassador-rank post within the United Nations. On June 10, Obama announced Harper as his pick for U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council. If confirmed by the Senate,

Harper would be the first Native American in an ambassador post. The United Nations Human Rights Council addresses human rights issues around the world. Prior U.S. representatives have included former first last Eleanor Roosevelt and vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro.

Harper is most well known for working on the Cobell trust fund lawsuit since its inception in 1996. He began his career with the Native American Rights Fund



Keith Harper

and joined the Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton firm in Washington before a settlement was announced in December 2009. Harper attended the New

York University School of Law and the University of California at Berkley. He focuses his practice on litigation and Native American affairs. Throughout his career, Harper has represented tribes and individual Indians. He served as a principal advisor and chair of the Native American Domestic Policy Committee for the Obama campaign and then as a member of the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team in the Energy and Environment Cluster. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including

the Rockefeller Foundation NGL Fellowship, Skadden Fellowship, the University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law Program Senior Fellowship, the American Bar Association Business Law Division Ambassadorship, the Fowler Fellowship for Public Policy, the Root-Tilden-Snow Scholarship and the Center for International Studies Fellowship. In 2001, he was selected as a Leadership Conference on Civil Rights delegate to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

35 Okla. tribes share \$77 million in HUD grants

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The US Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced more than \$77 million in grants to 35 Oklahoma tribes and tribal organizations to help provide affordable housing for tribal members. The funding announced Thursday is provided by HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant Program. Federal officials said in a news release that the grants may be used to build affordable

housing, or for programs that contribute to housing availability and public safety. The grants in Oklahoma range from nearly \$48,000 to the Shawnee Tribe and just more than \$50,000 to the Miami Tribe to nearly \$20.3 million to the Cherokee Nation and \$13.7 million to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. A total of \$563 million was awarded to 353 American Indian and Alaskan Native entities nationwide.

Feds give Kaw Nation green light on gaming application

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – An Oklahoma tribe has received a favorable secretarial determination for its gaming application. The Kaw Nation, headquartered in Kaw City, Okla., submitted an application to Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn for 21 acres near Braman, Okla. Located adjacent to Interstate 35, the proposed site is already owned in fee by the tribe and has a convenience store. The property is within 25 miles of six other casinos, including one in Newkirk that is also owned by the tribe. Under the terms of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a positive secretarial determination is required in order for them to conduct gaming on the property. "After a careful and thorough review of the Kaw Nation's gaming application, the tribe's application satisfies the rigorous standards

contained in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and our regulations," Washburn said. "The tribe has had a presence in north-central Oklahoma since its relocation from Kansas in 1872 and this decision will assist them to build their economy for the benefit of their tribal members and the surrounding communities." As per IGRA, since the land has been taken into trust after October 1988, Oklahoma's governor must agree with the secretarial determination in order for the tribe to conduct gaming on the site. IGRA also requires consultation with local officials, including representatives from other local tribal governments, to determine whether a new gaming facility will be in the best interest of the tribe, its citizens and the surrounding community. The Kaw Economic Development Authority did not respond to email requests for additional information about the proposed casino.

Osage AG files ethics complaint against Chief

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones filed a formal ethics complaint against the tribe's chief Wednesday. According to the complaint, on May 31, Chief John Red Eagle called an investigator with the attorney general's office and threatened to fire him if he did not stop a pending inquiry into a tribal employee. The complaint also contends that on May 29, Red Eagle ordered the tribe's gaming board to pay for a member's travel in full after deciding not to due to budget constraints. Under the tribe's ethics law, government officials are prohibited from using or attempting to use their position to give preferential treatment to individuals or special interest groups. The ethics law also bans government officials from using their position to influence government decisions and actions for private gain.



Chief John Red Eagle

Red Eagle refuted the allegations in an email to the Native Times Friday afternoon. "I absolutely deny the allegations that anything unethical has occurred, and look forward to defending this vigorously," he stated. Potential penalties for violating the Osage Nation Ethics Law include fines, a public reprimand, removal from office and disqualification from all elected and appointed tribal government positions. As of Friday morning, a hearing for the complaint has not been scheduled. An employee with the Osage Nation Court Clerk's office could not provide a timeline for when the complaint will be placed on a docket.

PLATE

Continued from Page 1

featuring things like logos for schools and universities, wildlife, and even one featuring the phrase "In God We Trust," although each specialty plate requires an additional fee ranging from about \$18 to \$35 annually. The "Sacred Rain Arrow" image that ultimately was chosen for Oklahoma's license plate five years ago is a likeness of the statue by noted American Indian sculptor Allan Houser, a Chiricahua Apache artist recognized as one of the foremost sculptors of the 20th Century. The statue, which was displayed at the Olympic Village during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, features a warrior shooting the arrow skyward as part of a ritual involving a prayer for rain. The statue is now displayed outside the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. "The piece isn't worshipping a rain god," said David Rettig, curator of collections for the Allan Houser estate in Santa Fe, N.M., who knew Houser for 20 years before the artist's death in 1994. "It is, in a sense, an offering of prayer to God. The idea this piece is worshipping some pagan god is pretty foreign to what he believed. "(The minister) is missing the point that it symbolizes

Native American culture and history and I don't think it's making some kind of exclusive statement about religion or worship. It's puzzling somebody could take that interpretation." State Sen. Clark Jolley sponsored the bill to create a new license plate five years ago to replace Oklahoma's old tag that featured an Osage Nation shield that is also depicted on the state flag. Jolley also helped lead a panel to narrow the selection down to five finalists and said there wasn't any thought given to the religious significance of the design. "I don't think any of us had any thought that this was some kind of great statement of religious significance," said Jolley, R-Edmond. "I'm not an expert on Native American religious heritage. I just thought of a guy shooting an arrow into a cloud so that rain would fall." Charles Vargas, a member of the Chiricahua Apache Nation's governing board, said the tribe's ancestral lands ranged from what is now Arizona and New Mexico into the high plains of Oklahoma and that many tribe members are honored that the license plate features a Chiricahua Apache warrior. "I think it's very powerful imaging, and it's used in a very positive manner," Vargas said. "If it's something the people want in that state,

how could we deny that." Billy James, a 29-year-old student at the University of Oklahoma, said he has always liked the design of the license plate. "I definitely like keeping the Native American history on the license plate," said James, who is Catholic. "I think it's a good reminder of where we came from. I think it's a good representation of our state. "I find the history of other people's beliefs in no way offensive to my own beliefs." Cressman's attorney said his client's lawsuit is in no way a criticism of Native Americans or their rich history in Oklahoma. "It's really the idea that he would have to communicate a religious belief that he doesn't hold," Kellum said. When asked about the case, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, whose office represents the state, said only that attorneys on his staff were evaluating the decision. "We're doing what we do in every case," Pruitt said. "We're evaluating and analyzing the case as the 10th Circuit sent it back." The three-member panel of the Denver-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit did not rule on the merits of the case, but in a 2-1 decision reversed the district court's order dismissing Cressman's complaint and sent the case back for further consideration.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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– MEMBER –



Some of state’s best compete in Oklahoma Indian All-State games

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. – Some of Oklahoma’s best Native American high school basketball players took to the court Saturday night at Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

Organized by Paradox Consulting as a way to reward and showcase some of the state’s Native youth, the 18th Annual Oklahoma Indian All-State games featured student-athletes from 11 tribes, including 14 from the Cherokee Nation alone.

Participants were nominated by their coaches, then ranked by a panel of coaches across the state based on their basketball accomplishments, their potential to contribute to a balanced team, academic performance and extracurricular activities.

Selected seniors were divided into north and south teams with 12 players on each roster, using Interstate 40 as the approximate boundary. An additional 48 students were named to the second team.

“It’s truly a blessing to getting to

play in the Indian All-State game,” Cherokee Nation citizen and recent Sequoyah High School graduate Courtney Jones said. “Not only do I get to represent my school, but I get to represent my tribe as well.”

In the girls’ name, the North team, led by Cherokee Nation citizen Raven Campos, withstood a fourth quarter rally from the South to win, 72-68. Potawatomi citizen Amelia Tyree led all scorers with 20 points and four rebounds. A native of Vici, Okla., Tyree is her school’s all-time leading scorer and was an all-state selection by both the Oklahoma Coaches Association and the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association. She will play collegiately at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla., next season.

“It’s an honor being Native American and just getting picked to play in this game,” Tyree said. “It’s a big honor for me.”

Tyree, along with Storm Brave, an Osage and Kaw graduate of Shidler High school, Campos, Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Kortney Meat

and MaKayla Blackbear, a Muscogee (Creek) and Cheyenne graduate of Henryetta High School, were named to the game’s all-star team. Campos, a graduate of Adair High School and OCA Small East all-state selection, was named MVP of the girls’ game.

In the boys’ game, Choctaw Nation citizen Markell Henderson took over the second half, turning a close game into a 96-86 victory for the South team.

Cherokee Nation citizen Jeylyn Sharpe and Henderson each had 27 points. Both were named to the boys’ all-star team, with Henderson earning MVP honors. A graduate of Boswell High School in southeastern Oklahoma, Henderson will play for Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla., next season along with fellow Indian All-State first team selection E.J. Golightly, a Kiowa citizen from Chickasha, Okla.

Other boys’ all-star selections included Choctaw Nation citizen Cade Clay from Rattan, Okla., and Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Stoney Newton from Okemah, Okla.

VA announces first ever inter-tribal ‘veteran stand down’

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma’s Veteran’s Affairs office announces a first-time partnership between the state and tribes to host an inter-tribal ‘Veteran Stand Down’ focused on Native American veterans who are homeless or living in overcrowded conditions. The Stand Down will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 27 at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee.

Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m. Multiple tribes will be represented and provide transportation at area pick-up points for the Stand Down: Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Sac & Fox Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. No veteran will be turned away.

“Many state, tribal, local, and national organizations will come together to provide a safe and welcoming environment for veterans living in tribal communities and surrounding areas who are homeless or living in overcrowded situations,” said Mary Culley, specialist with the VA’s Office of Tribal Government Relations in the Southern Plains and Eastern Regions.

The Stand Down will offer a variety of resources and services including: legal aid assistance,

vocational rehabilitation service information, housing options, Veteran benefits information and employment assistance services. Representatives will be onsite from Social Security Administration, Oklahoma State Department of Human Services, the United States Department of Interior, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, and other key federal, state and tribal partner organizations. All veterans will have access to a wide range of health care screening services, including health assessments, dental screenings and eye exams to name just a few.

“Leaving the military can be difficult,” said Lenny Vile, homeless veteran coordinator for the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center. “A lot of Native American veterans isolate themselves and return to their tribes... some go years without knowing the benefits that are owed to them. Our goal is to change that during the Stand Down.”

Native Americans have served with distinction in the Armed Forces for more than 200 years. Currently, there is an estimated 21,000 Native American veterans in Oklahoma and only 3,153 are enrolled to receive VA services.

For event information please contact Mary Culley, Tribal Government Relations Specialist at 405-626-3426.

‘Cherokee Women in Art’ exhibit featured at Woolaroc through July 14

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Five Cherokee women artists will take part in an exhibit in the Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville through July 14.

The “Cherokee Women in Art” exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

Located in the Osage Hills, Woolaroc was established in 1925 as the ranch retreat of oilman Frank Phillips. The ranch is a 3,700 acre wildlife preserve and is home to many species of native and exotic wildlife, such as buffalo, elk and longhorn cattle. Woolaroc is also a museum with a collection of western art and artifacts, Native American material and other collections.

Woolaroc is open year-round. For the summer, Woolaroc is open 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and closed only on Monday from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

The admission donation is \$10 for guests ages 12 through 64, \$8 for ages 65 and older. Children age 11 and younger are free.

Woolaroc is located on State Highway 123, 12 miles southwest of Bartlesville and 45 miles north of Tulsa.

SEX

Continued from Page 1

come up with money to pay \$1,700 for bills right now?” “she said. “He said, ‘You know what to do.’”

Her friend offered to help her post an online ad for escort services. Soon she was being walked into the motel room on her first call. The next day, her boyfriend confronted her about the ad.

“He’s got his hand around my neck, and he’s saying, ‘You weren’t supposed to be that kind of person.’ I said, ‘I thought that’s what you wanted.’”

He said, “If you’re gonna do this, you’re gonna do it for me,” she said.

Later, Jessica learned the friend who suggested she go on her first call was in business with her boyfriend. Together, they had manipulated her.

“It wasn’t a random situation,” she said. “It was a setup situation, and I didn’t

realize it until it was too late.”

This is sex trafficking. The trafficker carefully identifies a victim, threatens and deceives to entrap her in the scheme. It is a crime, defined in federal law in 2000.

In 2011, the last year for which statistics are available, 42 Department of Justice cases involved human trafficking by force, and half involved sex trafficking. Ten of those cases were in South Dakota.

South Dakota’s high share of sex trafficking cases reflects a priority for U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson. He recently announced the creation of a task force to crack down on the crime in this area.

Law enforcement officials say Sioux Falls’ location makes it enticing to traffickers: near the Twin Cities of Minnesota, close to hunting lodges, the Sturgis motorcycle rally and North Dakota’s oil fields. The reach and sophistication of online sites makes it easier to

market prostitutes now, too.

The first case Johnson’s office prosecuted involved Brandon Thompson, of Tea. He was charged for targeting more than a dozen victims, 10 of whom were minors.

Authorities said they wrongly considered it was an aberration.

“The debate is over about whether sex trafficking is happening in South Dakota,” Johnson said. “The only logical discussion to have is what to do about it.”

Attorney General Marty Jackley, who was U.S. attorney until 2009, prosecuted a case of human trafficking in Oacoma, where hotel owners had enslaved immigrant laborers, but didn’t prosecute any cases of sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion.

Jackley said his office hadn’t seen evidence of sex trafficking while he was on the job. His resources were directed toward the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Sting operations through the ICAC resulted

in two of the sex trafficking cases prosecuted by Johnson’s office.

Jackley said state law provides effective avenues for prosecuting prostitution. Trafficking rings such as that run by Brandon Thompson still are rare here, he contends.

“We do have widespread escort services in South Dakota, and I think the way to deal with that is to go after sites like backpage.com,” Jackley said.

North Dakota U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon is concerned about sex trafficking in the Bakken oil field. Rapid development there has brought a population boom to cities such as Williston, Dickinson and Watford City.

“There’s no question we’ve seen an increase in prostitution arrests around the oil patch,” Purdon said.

In Watford City, with a 2010 population less than 2,000, seven people were arrested in November on prostitution charges.

Purdon is particularly worried about Native American victims. The Bakken Fields extend into the Fort Berthold reservation. The only sex trafficking case to have moved through federal court in North Dakota in recent years involved a man who ran a gang on the reservation. But Purdy suspects that there are more cases.

Minnesota’s Civil Society legal aid service intends to hold training sessions on human trafficking next month in Sioux Falls and in August in Custer. The latter session coincides with the Sturgis motorcycle rally, long seen by activists as a hotbed of trafficking.

In Sioux Falls, Susan Omanson runs Be Free Ministries, which helps victims of sex trafficking. She has worked with 22 Sioux Falls-area victims since 2009.

She said traffickers seek out people who’ve never been taken care of, and take care of them long enough

to make them dependent, Omanson said.

“That’s kind of the ‘aha’ moment,” Omanson said. “They realize that they have been used and abused and marginalized and everything that goes along with it.”

Johnson wants more victims to come forward. Prosecuting them for prostitution is not part of the agenda.

“If you feel like you can’t get out, you are a victim,” Johnson said.

Recognizing the victims is a part of the federal law – the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. It says that those involved in sex trafficking – particularly underage victims – are not to be treated as criminals and charged as prostitutes.

Omanson and others agree and say the women need safe housing, away from their former life.

“That’s why you see women going back into the most horrific situations, and you have people saying, ‘Look, she likes it,’ “ Omanson said.

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Cartoonist tackles Native American issues

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Cartoonist Marty Two Bulls never shies away from the hot-button issues facing Native Americans, even if it makes people angry.

Two Bulls, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who grew up in Rapid City but now lives in Santa Fe, N.M., has been using his talent to illustrate issues facing American Indians since he was a child. He currently produces a weekly cartoon for Indian Country Today Media Network with reprints appearing in other Native American publications.

Two Bulls said he enjoys pointing out the obvious on some of the controversial issues.

He frequently satirizes the Keystone Pipeline, which tribes have opposed because of its environmental impact, and the small Nebraska town of Whiteclay, where a handful of stores sell millions of cans of beer each year to members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the neighboring Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The tribe for years fought the store owners, going so far as to sue the country’s largest beer distributors last year.

In one cartoon satirizing the Whiteclay issue, Two Bulls draws four adults huddled around a picket line with signs denouncing the town. Two young children

stand nearby holding their own sign: “Just quit drinking,” it says.

Another drawing shows a Native American man, dressed in jeans, cowboy boots, a bandanna and with a long braid down his back, talking on his cellphone, a gas container by his side. The man asks, “Hau Bra ... Can you give me a ride to the Keystone pipeline protest?”

Both illustrations show the sometimes hypocritical nature of tribal members, Two Bulls said.

“If everyone quit drinking, then Whiteclay would go away. If everyone stopped driving their cars, Keystone would go away,” he said. “It’s simplistic. It’s the way a child would look at the problem, but you know a lot of times the most simplest answers are the hardest to face because of that person in the mirror.”

But Two Bulls has faced criticism from fellow Native Americans for his approach. After one particularly controversial cartoon, someone drew a cartoon of him as a colonizer, he said.

While the 51-year-old tackles a wide variety of issues, he said he has a particular soft spot for those

affecting Oglala Sioux tribal members.

“That’s kind of why I started – for my people,” he said. “When topics come up that affect them, I like to really do it with them in mind.”

Rob Capriccioso, the Washington bureau chief

piques curiosity.

One topic that always stirs debate, Capriccioso said, is when Two Bulls tackles the use of Native American imagery in team names or mascots.

“Several of his cartoons plainly ask readers to think about how odd it would be

an Indian reader, his work is less shocking, yet more appreciated.”

Two Bulls’ work always has a point to it, said Anthony Janis, an Oglala Sioux tribal member living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

“Whether I agree with it or not, it still comes across,” said Janis, 50. “There are a lot of issues here and some are sensitive, and he is addressing them in his way. Some will not like it but others will. That is just the way of the world.”

Two Bulls grew up in Rapid City but said he has a strong connection to the Red Shirt community on Pine Ridge. The Two Bulls clan comes from that area and his father still lives there. From a young age Two Bulls was surrounded by artists – one uncle was a gallery painter and another was a graphic designer.

It was at Central High School in Rapid City that Two Bulls started drawing editorial cartoons for the school newspaper. He went on to attend the Art Institute of Colorado before returning to South Dakota and working for television stations and newspapers across the state as a graphic designer and

cartoonist. He began his freelance cartoon career while going back to school at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe.

For the past 11 years, Two Bulls, who is married with three grown children, has been completing 52 cartoons a year, which can be a challenge, he said. The Society of Professional Journalists last year honored Two Bulls with a Sigma Delta Chi award.

The most time-consuming part of each cartoon is researching an idea. Luckily, Two Bulls said, he was bitten by the news bug at an early age and reads everything from The New York Times to local newspapers for inspiration.

“I’m constantly checking articles and looking – whatever strikes me as funny,” he said. “I like to do ironic stuff. And I do it from my perspective. I’m Native American, so I do it from my point of view and my humor.”

It’s that humor that helps Native people get through some of their troubles, he said.

“We’re the poorest in the nation but we can still joke about it,” he said.

As for offending people, Two Bulls figures that’s just part of the profession.

“If you don’t get people mad you’re not doing your job,” he said, laughing.



for Indian Country Today Media Network, calls Two Bulls one of the “sharpest political cartoonists working today.” Capriccioso said mainstream audiences might not always understand the Native American-centric topics he lampoons, but he

if a team name were called ‘Whites,’ or if stereotypical imagery were widely accepted that is racist and offensive toward minority groups other than Indians,” he said. “To fans of the teams and names he highlights, his work is controversial. To

started drawing editorial cartoons for the school newspaper. He went on to attend the Art Institute of Colorado before returning to South Dakota and working for television stations and newspapers across the state as a graphic designer and

Tribal leaders focus on energy development hurdles

SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press

SANDIA PUEBLO, N.M. (AP) – Federal and tribal politics and bureaucracy remain some of the reasons energy development has been so difficult in Indian Country, American Indian leaders said June 11.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel and others opened a three-day conference with a round-table discussion about the

hurdles of developing natural resources, from oil and natural gas to renewable sources.

Shelly said his tribe is working on modernizing its energy and environmental codes to better position itself for new development opportunities.

“So many years, we’ve been talking,” Shelly said. “I’m getting old. Let’s get it done.”

He urged tribal leaders to band together and take advantage of the opportunities they have to bring in revenue, create jobs and become energy independent.

On the Navajo Nation, which spans parts of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, unemployment tops 60 percent and some families are still without electricity and running water. Shelly said he doesn’t have time to wait for some other state or federal agency to find a solution.

Tribal leaders have been asking for years for the federal government to streamline permitting processes and curb oversight to address the issue. It was Keel who urged Congress last year to pass legislation to expand leasing reform and create an Indian energy

self-determination law.

Experts said last Tuesday that tribal lands make up about 5 percent of the land mass in the U.S. but contain as much as one-fifth of the nation’s energy resources.

In North Dakota, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation is in the middle of one of the biggest oil and gas booms in decades. More than 800 wells have been drilled on tribal land, 30 rigs are operating there, and more than 16,000 semi-trucks are keeping the roads busy as part of the development.

Tribal Chairman Tex Hall said

the tribe developed its own codes to balance development with environmental protections. He said those codes will continue to change as technology drives development.

Keel said one of the other focuses is protecting tribal sovereignty.

“Tribal governments have an important role in not only developing those resources but protecting the cultural resources, our sacred sites, all of those things that are important to Indian people and our way of life, not to mention raising the quality of life of our people,” he said.

US Chamber backing tribal energy legislation

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is throwing its support behind federal legislation aimed at boosting energy development in Indian Country by streamlining federal permitting processes and oversight.

The organization sent a letter to members of the House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, as tribal leaders from across the U.S. and Canada gathered during a

national conference in Albuquerque.

The tribal leaders are discussing ways to overcome hurdles to developing their own natural resources.

The Chamber of Commerce says in its letter that the proposed Native American Energy Act would boost economic activity in tribal communities by eliminating what it calls “cumbersome federal bureaucratic processes.”

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LAND

Continued from Page 1

funds needed to purchase the land from Czywczynski. The official also told Native Sun News that the tribe has been approached by several philanthropic groups interested in purchasing the lands on behalf of the tribe. However according to the source OST President Bryan Brewer has been skeptical of several of the groups and has been extremely diligent in assuring that the tribe would not be taken advantage of.

When contacted by NSN, Czywczynski said that he has not spoken with anyone representing the Oglala Sioux Tribal government.

“The tribe has not responded to anything that I have sent them. It has always been my hope that the tribe would end up with the land. The group who I am meeting with this week also hopes that the land will end up in the right hands rather it be a tribal member or the Tribe as a government,” said Czywczynski.

The group that Czywczynski is set to meet with this week is represented by a local realtor and an attorney from California. The attorney who flew to

South Dakota this week is the spokesperson for anonymous donors that refuse to publicly take credit for the purchase of the land if it goes through. According to Czywczynski and emails acquired by NSN, the attorney is working with a mediator who is an Oglala Sioux tribal member charged with assuring that the land does become the property of owners who are connected to the tribe in some capacity.

The tribal official who spoke with NSN on the condition of anonymity said that the tribal government’s financiers would be meeting with the tribe in the coming days.

“I am hopeful that the deal goes through this week and the land can be returned to the tribe. If not this group, then hopefully the tribe will approach me with an offer from their group. I have put two other potential buyers on hold while I work with this group who wants the tribe or a tribal member to have it,” said Czywczynski. “If not then I am going to go ahead and move forward with the groups who are not connected to anyone in the tribe. I don’t want to do that but there are offers and I have no choice but to entertain them.”

GOVERNOR

Continued from Page 1

through August 2017, Fallin’s office has maintained that it will only extend short-term extensions to tribes still engaged in “good faith” negotiations on June 30.

“We’ve had a tremendous meeting,” Fallin said. “The purpose was to sit down with tribal leaders and...talk sovereign-to-sovereign about various issues that face not only the tribes, but certainly ways that the state can work together and collaborate.”

Fallin did not answer any questions. The meeting was closed to non-elected officials, including attorneys, tax commissioners and reporters.

To date, only four tribes have signed new compacts this year, which all take effect July 1. None of the new compacts include most favored nation clauses or border tax rates, which the governor’s office has publicly come out against.

Under the current compacts, lower tax rates are available for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Kansas or Missouri, which have lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops. Tribal smoke shops outside that radius can sell cigarette packs with either a 52-cent stamp or an 86-cent stamp, depending on the exact terms of the tribe’s compact. Tribal smoke shops without a compact and non-tribal tobacco retailers must sell cigarettes to the public with a \$1.03 stamp.

“There are several of us asking to keep our compacts the way they are,” Comanche Nation Chairman Wallace Coffey said. “I’m satisfied. That should be sufficient.

“Our members are her members. And we vote.”

The Comanche Nation has nine smoke shops, all of which currently sell cigarettes with a 52-cent stamp.

The most recent tribe to sign a compact, the Fort Sill Apaches, signed its agreement a day earlier, on June 10. The compact only extends to the tribe’s Lawton, Okla., smoke shop and does not apply to its Akela, N.M., store. Prior to Monday’s agreement, the Apache, Okla.-based tribe was one of nine in the state without a tobacco compact.

Like the Kaw Nation, Apache Tribe and the Janice PrairieChief - Boswell faction of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe also signed a burn ban agreement, which included a provision that the ban does not extend to tribally-sponsored religious and ceremonial activities.

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The Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center is seeking qualified people to sit on its Board of Directors. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2013. Comanche tribal members preferred.

Send resumes to: Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, Attn: Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi, Executive Director, 701 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton, OK, 73507.

Previous applicants need not apply.

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Robbie Anquoe

Color Guard:

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Schedule:



2:00PM

Gourd Dance

5:00PM

Supper Break

6:00PM

Gourd Dance

7:00PM

Grand Entry

11:00PM

Closing Song

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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH JULY 14

Cherokee Women in Art exhibit,

Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville. Exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

JUNE 19

Intertribal Youth Celebration (rescheduled from June 5) 9 am - 2pm at Iowa Tribal Complex. Wellness event for Native youth ages 1st-12th grade.

JUNE 21

Annual Peoria Powwow, Peoria Powwow Grounds, 60610 E 90 Rd., Miami. Info call Frank Hecksher 918-540-2535 or Email: fhecksher@peoriatribe.com Website: www.peoriatribe.com

JUNE 21-23

Iowa Nation Tribal Powwow, Perkins, Okla. All senior categories (including golden age) 1st \$1000, 2nd \$700, 3rd \$500. All juniors 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100. Tiny-Tots welcome. Must make at least two grand entries. Info call (405) 714-2168 or (405) 614-5428

JUNE 22

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. – General election for Cherokee Nation Tribal Council seats. For more information, call the Cherokee Nation Election Commission, 918-458-5899.

JUNE 22

Shirley MacLaine 7 pm at Osage Event Center, Tulsa. Tickets \$50 general admission available at Osage Casino Gift Shop, 951 W 36th North or call 918-699-7667 or purchased online at <https://tickets.osagecasinos.com>

JUNE 25-27

UKB Summer Health Events - children's health assessments, CPR certification, health seminars and cultural exchanges. Events at Kenwood School, UKB Wellness Center and Jay Community Building. For more information, call Carrie Haney at 918-456-8698 or Kathy White at 918-458-6708.

JUNE 27

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Cherokee NationHealth Services will be in Muskogee distributing free gunlocks as part of the Youth Suicide Means Restriction Campaign. Three Rivers Health Center, 1001 S. 41st St. East. For more information, call Mindy Hanson, 918-889-0981.

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website: www.tonkawatribe.com

JUNE 29, 2013

Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd, Muskogee. Contest powwow, free admission. All Royalties, Drums, Singers and Dancers Invited Info contact Betty R Martin / Stella Pepiakitah (918)682-2586 murrowhomedirector@gmail.com

JUNE 29

Echota Baptist Church 100th Anniversary Celebration and open gospel singing beginning at 10 a.m. Hog fry dinner, more singing and history display. Everyone welcome. Info call Frank Swimmer 918-616-2742.

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 Email: ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-6

Thunderbird Casino 26th Annual Powwow, Norman. Intertribal dancing only July 4th. All contestants must dance in Grand Entry and Intertribal dancing in full regalia and number in full display. All day events. Contact Sue Blanchard, 405-312-4621 or Leonard Longhorn, 405-481-0674.

JULY 4-7

Pawnee Indian Veterans 67th Annual Homecoming, Memorial Park in Pawnee, Okla. Run and softball tournament Sat.

at 8am. Parade Sat. at Noon.

For complete schedule or info call David Echohawk, 918-873-0499 or visit online pawneeindianveteransorg@gmail.com or on Facebook at Pawnee Indian Veterans Organization (Official)

JULY 2-4

Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration at Carnegie City Park, Carnegie. Gourd dancing, stunning shawls and drumming exhibitions. 6am-11pm. Contact Phil Dupoint, 580-654-2300.

JULY 5-7

Quapaw Tribal Powwow at 5681 S 630 Rd, Quapaw. Celebration includes dancing, contests, vendors and plenty of family fun. 8am-close. Contact Everett Bandy at 918-542-1853 or ebandy@quapawtribe.com.

JULY 6

Mose YellowHorse Co-Ed Softball Tournament at Pawnee Baseball Fields. Double elimination. \$125 entry fee. More info contact Waylon Cotanny, 580-310-4133 waylon.cotanny@chickasaw.net Or Randi Estes rcestes72@yahoo.com

JULY 11-14

Sac & Fox Nation Powwow at 920883 S State Hwy 99, Stroud. Dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, outdoor camping and much more. 8pm-close. Contact Robert Williamson, 918-225-5788 r 918-290-0554.

JULY 13

Choctaw Nation election for Districts 4 and 9 council representatives. Info: Election Board, P. O. Box 278, Durant, OK 74702-0748, or call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2199, 2535, and 2536

JULY 18-21

Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment at the Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds, 7500 Hwy 177, Red Rock. Includes gourd dancing, a 5K run and contest dancing. Free and open to the public. Event times vary. Contact Heather Payne,

580-723-4466.

JULY 19-21

Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Sultan Park, 129 E Colorado St, Walters. Categories of dance competition will include gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Contact 580-492-3240.

JULY 26-28

44th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow at 193rd & Javine Hill Road, Skiatook. 6:30pm-close. Contact Donna Phillips, 918-381-7996, dkphillips2002@gmail.com.

JULY 26-28

63rd Annual Indian Hills Powwow at 9300 North Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. 8am-close. Contact Berdina Kodasset, 405-201-1283.

JULY 30

Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4

Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 15-18

Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public. 2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30-31

Eufaula Indian Community Powwow & Homecoming Eastside Ballpark, Eufaula. eufaulachamberofcommerce.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1

Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah.



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Akiane Bates
Absentee Shawnee

- Inside this issue:
- Charges dropped against protestors
 - Arrest won't stop anti-alcohol work
 - Goodrich inspires local Native youth



NATIVE TIMES

Tribal land buy-back program starting

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Interior Department says it is ready to start a program to help Native American tribes buy parcels of reservation land that have accumulated multiple owners.

The purchases announced June 18 are part of the settlement of the Cobell lawsuit over government mismanagement of Indian land royalties.

Outgoing Interior deputy secretary David Hayes says purchase offers should begin at the end of the year and speed up in coming years.

The program will start with the Pine Ridge, S.D.; Crow, Mont. and Makah, Wash. reservations and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of South Dakota tribe and involve 10 to 12 tribes by year's end.

Allotting reservation land to individual tribe members, who passed it to heirs, was once a government method for assimilating American Indians. Some parcels now have thousands of owners.

BIA considering revisions to recognition policy



Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

■ Tribal consults, public meetings to begin in July

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
News Release

WASHINGTON – As part of President Obama's commitment to strengthen the nation-to-nation

relationship with Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn has announced the availability of a discussion draft of potential changes to the Department of the Interior's Part 83 process for acknowledging certain Indian groups as federally recognized tribes. The discussion draft is intended to provide tribes and the public an early opportunity to provide input on potential changes to the Part 83 process.

The Federal recognition acknowledgment process is the Department's regulatory process by which petitioning groups that meet the regulatory criteria

See POLICY on Page 2



Comanche Nation Junior Princess Larnie Johnetta Silverhorn and Quannah Parker Descendants Princess Kimberley DeJesus pose for a photo with actor Johnny Depp.

Comanche Nation rolls out the red carpet in Red Dirt Country

■ Actors Johnny Depp, Gil Birmingham and Saginaw Grant surprised fans in Lawton June 21

LISA SNELL
Native Times

LAWTON, Okla. – Searing heat and soaring humidity did little to deter the crowd of Johnny Depp fans as they waited under the hot sun for a glimpse

of the popular actor who stars in the new "Lone Ranger" movie set for national release July 3.

The Comanche Nation capital was the site of a Hollywood-meets-Native America red carpet premiere of the film Friday afternoon. The carpet stretched between temporary bleachers and low-metal barricades, which were flanked by fans, media and a ceremonial Drum. Native dancers in full regalia defied the heat by spinning, twirling, stomping and swaying to the drum beat while onlookers shot

photos, tweeted and posted Facebook updates on mobile phones.

Former University of Oklahoma football coach Barry Switzer was one of the first celebrities to arrive, eschewing the freshly vacuumed carpet to pay his respects to the Drum before ducking inside the theater.

Select VIPs and privileged ticket holders walked the carpet next and posed for photos before entering the Carmike Theater for an exclusive

See RED CARPET on Page 8



The Cherokee Nation Election Commission posts unofficial results from Saturday's election.

6 incumbents to remain on Cherokee Tribal Council

CHEROKEE PHOENIX STAFF

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – According to unofficial results from the Cherokee Nation's June 22 election, six current Tribal Councilors will remain on the legislative body when the new 15-district representative map replaces the five-district map on Aug. 14.

In two other district races, one incumbent faces a runoff while another incumbent lost.

Incumbent Joe Byrd of Tahlequah

will serve as councilor for the new Dist. 2. Unofficial results showed Byrd receiving 67.97 percent of the votes, or 416 ballots, while Tamsye Dreadfulwater of Tahlequah received 32.03 percent or 196 votes.

"Now it's time to go to work," Byrd said. "And all the people that helped, the volunteers, the people that let me put signs in their yard, it was really a team effort and there were a lot of

See COUNCIL on Page 2

Osage Congress announces special session for July 8

■ On the agenda is an item that could set into motion the removal of a tribal official.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – The Osage Nation Congress announced June 20 it will meet in special session on July 8.

Among the items on the special session's agenda is a motion to form a Select Committee of Inquiry, which is the first step in the potential removal of a tribal official.

If the motion passes, a member of the Osage Nation judiciary must select five members of Congress to serve on the committee within 10 business days. The committee, which would meet in executive session, would conduct an investigation into the specific allegations against the accused. The committee would then present its recommendation

to the Osage Nation Congress of whether sufficient grounds exist for a removal trial, which would be presided over by the tribe's Supreme Court with the full legislature as the jury.



Raymond Red Corn, speaker of the Osage Nation Congress, would not confirm which tribal official would be the focus of the committee's investigation if the motion passes.

Raymond Red Corn, speaker of the Osage Nation Congress, would not confirm Friday morning which tribal official would be the focus of the committee's investigation if the motion passes.

"The objective is to protect

the reputation of whoever is the subject of the committee's investigation," he said. "The only thing that will be public is the allegations."

"It is meant to be a deliberate process."

At least eight of the 12 members of Congress must approve the motion for the committee to be formed. The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Osage Nation Chambers in Pawhuska.

The announcement comes on the heels of two civil complaints filed against Chief John Red Eagle in tribal court.

On Wednesday morning, June 19, the tribe's newspaper, the Osage News, filed a lawsuit against Red Eagle for not responding to an open records request filed earlier this year concerning the terms of a non-tribal contractor's terms of employment.

"The Osage News has a duty to uphold its integrity and follow through with the laws set forth by the Osage Nation,

See OSAGE on Page 6



From left to right: Muscogee Creek Nation citizens Mike Harjo, Wayland Gray, Mike Deo and a Cherokee man were arrested earlier this year at the expansion site of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ Wind Creek Casino near Wetumpka, Alabama.

Judge dismisses charges in sacred site protest case

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Trespassing charges against three of the four men involved in a peaceful protest outside a controversial casino were dismissed June 18 by an Elmore County District Court judge.

Earlier this year, a group of Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and their supporters traveled to the expansion site of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ Wind Creek Casino near Wetumpka to conduct a ceremony in honor of their ancestors who were once buried there. The group had requested the construction be halted a day to allow the group to conduct the prayer ceremony without interruption, but was denied by

Poarch Band officials. Tribal police arrested four men, including three Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens, and filed trespassing charges after men stepped onto the casino property during the second day of their visit.

The fourth member of the group, Wayland Gray, originally faced an additional charge of making a terrorist threat. Those charges have since been reduced to disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing. A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 29.

The casino construction project has come under fire from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, along with traditionalists in Alabama, for its potential desecration of Hickory Ground, a pre-removal sacred site and burial ground. A federal lawsuit to stop the \$246 million expansion

is pending in the Middle District of Alabama.

In a press statement issued June 17, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians acknowledged the Oklahomans’ ancestral ties to the land, but maintained their sovereignty over the site.

“Despite their orchestrated campaign of disinformation to the contrary, our Hickory Ceremonial Ground land has been preserved and the remains found years earlier were respectfully re-interred,” the statement reads. “The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council is the locally elected body responsible for protecting our culture and making decisions to build for our future. These decisions should be respected.”

Council candidate’s attempt to stall election fails

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals denied a request from a Cherokee Nation Tribal Council candidate for an emergency temporary restraining order in the tribe’s June 22 election.


Robin Mayes, a Cherokee Nation citizen from Denton, Texas, filed an appeal with the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals June 19 after Terence Kern, a federal judge with the Northern District of Oklahoma, denied his request June 18 to intervene in a ongoing federal lawsuit concerning the citizenship eligibility of descendants of freed slaves.

The 10th Circuit Court denied the appeal on June 21, citing Mayes’ failure to demonstrate the likelihood of how successful his claim would be if granted.

In his motion for an emergency preliminary injunction, Mayes claimed his candidacy would be negatively impacted if the pending tribal citizenship applications for several thousand Freedmen descendants are not processed. Mayes was one of six candidates running for an at-large seat on the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council and according to unofficial

results announced Sunday morning, finished fourth.

“All of Mr. Mayes’ complaints relate to the nation’s failures to take action on citizenship applications rather than the nation’s treatment of Freedmen descendants who were already enrolled as citizens,” Kern



Robin Mayes

wrote. “Further, an application for citizenship is pending, such applicants would not be considered ‘Cherokee Freedmen descendants’ because their citizenship status has not yet been resolved.”

Within the Cherokee Nation, citizenship applications and voter registration are two separate processes

handled by two separate offices. In order to participate in the election, voter registration forms for enrolled Cherokee citizens age 18 and older had to be submitted by March 29.

Kern also declined to address Mayes’ arguments tied to an 1866 treaty between the Cherokee Nation and the United States, which granted tribal citizenship rights to freed slaves and their descendants. In a footnote, Kern wrote that with the treaty at the heart of the legal argument between the Cherokee Nation and the Freedmen descendants, an intervention application from a non-party was not the appropriate venue to discuss the potential success of such an argument.

The action in federal court comes after challenges filed with the Cherokee Nation’s Election Commission and judiciary were dismissed this spring.

“Back in March, I filed a complaint with Election Commission on the Freedmen issue,” Mayes said. “In every step of the way, the issue’s been dodged. The tribal Supreme Court did it as well, when they said it wasn’t part of a candidate challenge. It doesn’t mean they can ignore that they have an issue that could cause the election to be delayed. I think I need to take every measure in front of me.”

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

people involved with my reelection and I just want to thank all of the people that supported me.”

Byrd previously served on the Tribal Council from 1987-95 and since 2012. He also served as principal chief from 1995-99.

“One of my main initiatives in this go-around is going to be making sure that any of the elderly that want a storm shelter, I want to make sure they have one available to them because of the uncertainty of what our weather patterns have been,” he said. “Everybody talks about health care and scholarships, and that’s OK and I still support that, but I’m really going to concentrate on our elders this go-around.”

In the Dist. 4 race, incumbent Don Garvin of Muskogee will face challenger Mike Dobbins of Fort Gibson in a runoff election on July 27 because Garvin did not receive more than 50 percent of the vote. Garvin received 304 votes, or 43.8 percent, while Dobbins received 240 votes or 34.58 percent. Candidate Justin Carlton of Muskogee received 150 votes or 21.61 percent.

Attempts to reach Garvin for a comment were unsuccessful.

Dobbins said he was “happy” to be in the runoff and he has a lot of work in front of him. He added that the biggest concern for Dist. 4 constituents is health care.

“With sequester cuts, I’m trying to reassure the Cherokee people that we will everything we can to keep health services intact,” he said.

Incumbent David Thornton of Vian will serve as Tribal Councilor for the new Dist. 5 when he’s inaugurated. Results showed that Thornton received 56.75 percent of the votes, or 311 votes, while his opponents Dink Scott of Vian received 35.22 percent or 193 votes. Candidate Sherri Doolin of Braggs received 44 votes for 8.03 percent.

Thornton was first elected to the council in 2003. The Phoenix attempted to reach him but was unsuccessful.

In the Dist. 7 race, incumbent Frankie Hargis of Stilwell received 547 votes, or 55.09 percent, to defeat Joe Adair of Stilwell who received 446 votes or 44.91 percent.

Hargis first won a seat on the council in December 2011 during a special election to fill a seat vacated by now Deputy Chief S. Joe Crittenden. She also defeated Adair in that race.

Hargis credited her friends and family for working “tirelessly” with her to win the race. She said she appreciated those who voted for her and gave her their support.

Hargis said she’s heard from Cherokee people that they need help with application processes to receive tribal services such as housing, health care and education.

“We’ve made progress with all of that, and I’m so happy that I get to continue to help moving us forward to even better opportunities for our people,” she said.

In Dist. 9, unofficial results show that incumbent Curtis G. Snell of Rose won by 57.49 percent, or 407 votes, to defeat Lonus Mitchell of Rose who got 301 votes for 42.51 percent. Attempts to reach Snell were unsuccessful.

In Dist. 10, Harley Buzzard of Eucha received 66.82 percent of the vote for getting 290 ballots, while his opponent Nettie Detherage of Fairland received 33.18 percent or 144 votes.

Buzzard was not available for comment when election results were posted.

Tribal Councilor Chuck Hoskin Jr., drew no opponent for the new Dist. 11, so he will be inaugurated on Aug. 14 as that district’s council representative.

Three candidates campaigned for the Dist. 15 seat and unofficial results show that Janees Taylor of Pryor won with 50.7 percent or 289 votes. Incumbent Meredith Frailey of Locust Grove had 45.96 percent of the vote or 262 votes, and candidate Marilyn Cooper of Locust Grove got 19 votes for 3.33 percent.

Attempts to reach Taylor were unsuccessful.

The council’s At-Large Seat No. 2 had six candidates vying for it. Unofficial results show incumbent Jack Baker of Nichols Hills winning with 739 votes for 51.64 percent.

Candidates Curtis Bruehl of Norman received 30.4 percent from 435 votes. Ken Luttrell of Ponca City got 5.87 percent from 84 votes, while Robin Mayes of Denton, Texas, received 5.24 percent from 75 votes. Curtis West of Klamath Falls, Ore., received 3.63 percent of the vote, 52 votes overall, while Carol Richmond of Tulsa received 46 votes for 3.21 percent.

Although the results were unofficial, Baker said he feels he “fought a clean fight and did not run down any other candidate.”

“Even with all the money that was spent trying to take me out, I think the Cherokee people were able to see through that and still re-elect me,” he said.

The Election Commission is expected to certify the results within three days.

–Senior Cherokee Phoenix Reporter Will Chavez and Cherokee Phoenix Reporters Jami Custer, Tesina Jackson and Stacie Guthrie contributed to this report.

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POLICY

Continued from Page 1

are “acknowledged” as federally recognized Indian tribes with a government-to-government relationship with the United States. There are currently 566 federally recognized tribes in the U.S.

“The discussion draft is a starting point in the conversation with federally recognized tribes, petitioners and the public on how to ensure that the process is fair, efficient and transparent,” Washburn said. “We are starting with an open mind and no fixed agenda, and we’re looking forward to getting input from all stakeholders before we move forward with a proposed rule that will provide additional certainty and

timeliness to the process. In many parts of the discussion draft, we have made no fixed recommendations in order to have the benefit of that input in formulating a proposed rule.”

The discussion draft maintains stringent standards for core criteria and seeks comment on objective criteria to be incorporated into the standards. The draft suggests changes to improve timeliness and efficiency by providing for a thorough review of a petitioner’s community and political authority. That review would begin with the year 1934 to align with the United States repudiation of allotment and assimilation policies and eliminate the requirement that an external entity identify the group as Indian since 1900.

The discussion draft

further suggests providing flexibility to the Department to issue expedited denials and approvals based on the particular facts and unique history of certain petitioners. The draft suggests streamlining the process to promote greater transparency as a petitioner’s materials are evaluated by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment and the Department.

The Department is making the discussion draft available for review at <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm>. This discussion draft is a precursor to proposed regulatory changes, but is not itself a proposed rule. The Department will accept written comments on the draft until August 16, 2013.

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Tribe leader: Arrest won't deter anti-alcohol work

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota says his recent arrest during a protest against alcohol sales in the Nebraska border town of Whiteclay won't deter him from voicing his disapproval of the possibility of allowing alcohol on the dry Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Bryan Brewer was arrested June 17 during a protest in Whiteclay on a 2012 warrant for writing a bad check for \$191 to a veterinary clinic. The tribal official paid the amount, was released and

the charges dismissed. In a statement, Brewer said he hopes his arrest will encourage tribal members to talk about an upcoming referendum vote and its possible effects on the reservation. The tribal council earlier this month approved a public referendum on whether to legalize alcohol on the reservation. A date for the public vote has not yet been scheduled. "The arrest does not deter me from continuing protesting in White Clay (sic), why should we stop?," he said in the statement. "Alcohol doesn't stop! My

arrest only helps bring to light these issues and helps all of us to begin talking about



Oglala Sioux President Brian Brewer

the referendum vote, effects of alcohol and what we really

want for our people." Federal law bans the sale of alcohol on Indian reservations unless the tribal council allows it. The tribal council legalized alcohol on the reservation for two months in 1970s, but the ban was quickly restored. An attempt to lift the ban in 2004 ultimately died after a public outcry. Alcoholism is rampant on Pine Ridge and is often identified as the culprit for the high rates of suicide, violence, infant mortality and unemployment among tribal members on the impoverished reservation. People sneak in beer and

liquor from nearby border towns like Whiteclay. A lawsuit the tribe brought last year against four beer sellers in Whiteclay and some of the nation's biggest breweries was ultimately dismissed. The tribe alleges that the businesses were profiting from the alcoholism on the reservation. Brewer said tribal members need to take a "hard look" at what alcohol has done and is doing to the community. "We need to really think about what our communities will be like if alcohol is legalized on this reservation," he added.

Woman charged in toddler's death on ND reservation

BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – Federal authorities have charged a woman in the death of a toddler on the Spirit Lake Reservation, where the effectiveness of the child protection system has been the subject of debate for more than a year. Hope Tomahawk Whiteshield, 31, of St. Michael, is charged with child abuse and neglect, a charge that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum punishment of 20 years upon conviction. She made her initial appearance Thursday in U.S. District Court in Grand Forks and has a detention hearing scheduled Monday. Her court-appointed defense attorney, Ted Sandberg, said she plans to plead not guilty. Whiteshield is charged in the death earlier this month of a girl who was a month shy of 3 years old. FBI Special Agent Michael Meyer said in an affidavit that Whiteshield is married to the child's grandfather, Freeman Whiteshield. Tomahawk Whiteshield is accused of throwing the girl down an embankment by the family's home on June 12, then bathing and clothing the unresponsive child and putting her to bed. The girl was found dead the next morning. An autopsy concluded she died of a head injury. "The medical examiner advised the agents that this type of injury would not be caused by normal day to day activities of a child her age, i.e. bumping her head

or rolling off her bed," Meyer said in his affidavit. The agent said that when investigators asked Tomahawk Whiteshield why she had pushed the girl and the girl's twin sister, Whiteshield replied that she "was getting depressed about having kids all the time." Sandberg declined to comment on the alleged statement. The two girls had been with a foster family in Bismarck for two years and were transferred back to the reservation about a month before the death, according to Meyer. The safety of vulnerable children on the reservation has been questioned for months. The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs took over the tribe's child protection services in October following repeated criticism that the tribe's efforts to stem child abuse and neglect were failing. The criticism began to mount after the May 2011 slaying of a 6-year-old and his 9-year-old sister, who authorities say had been sexually assaulted. North Dakota's U.S. senators, John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp, earlier this week called for quick action by authorities in the death of the St. Michael girl. U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon said in a statement that "the protection of children is a top priority for my office, and we are doing everything possible to thoroughly and deliberately investigate this matter."

Tribe ordered to pay \$3.2M in car crash

MIAMI (AP) – South Florida's Miccosukee Indian tribe has been ordered to pay \$3.2 million to relatives of a woman who died in a car crash involving a tribal member. Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Ronald Dresnick held the tribe liable after a hearing Friday for the 1998 crash that killed 30-year-old Liliana Bermudez. The tribe's lawyers had argued that as a sovereign nation it could not be required

to pay the judgment to Bermudez's husband and son. The Miami Herald reports that the Miccosukee tribe got involved in the case by paying for the defense and controlling legal strategy for the woman who caused the crash. Dresnick said that resulted in a legal waiver of the sovereign immunity defense. Attorneys for the tribe say they will appeal.

State Sen. charged with DUI, obstruction

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Federal prosecutors on Friday charged state Sen. Shannon Augare with drunken driving, obstructing a peace officer and reckless driving after the Browning Democrat allegedly told a sheriff's deputy last month he had no jurisdiction to arrest him and fled a traffic stop. The charges are misdemeanors and, if convicted, Augare would face penalties of between nine and 15 months in prison and up to \$1,800 in fines. The U.S. attorney's office has requested a court summons be issued for Augare, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica Fehr. Augare did not return a call for comment Friday. Blackfeet tribal attorney Sandra Watts also did not return a call for comment. Augare, who is a member of the governing Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, was pulled over May 26 on U.S. Highway 2 on the Blackfeet reservation after the Glacier County Sheriff's Office received calls of an erratic driver. Augare had been drinking in a Cut Bank bar earlier in the evening with his family and left the bar with his mother, an FBI affidavit filed with the charging documents said.

During the traffic stop, Augare identified himself, said the deputy had no jurisdiction and that he was going to leave. State and county officials generally don't have jurisdiction to arrest an enrolled tribal member within the boundaries of a reservation. The deputy ordered Augare to turn off the ignition, and the officer reached in and placed the gear shift into park, according to the FBI affidavit. The deputy tried to grab the keys and told Augare, "You are highly intoxicated," the affidavit



State Senator Shannon Augare

said. Augare revved his engine in response and a second deputy pulled the first officer back as Augare sped off, the affidavit said. The second deputy wrote in his report the first deputy could have been dragged down the road if he was still in the vehicle. The deputies called Blackfeet law enforcement, and two tribal officers eventually found the pickup truck off the highway, parked behind some grain bins. Augare and his mother had switched places, with his mother in the driver's seat, and the keys were no longer in the ignition, the affidavit said. The officers did not conduct any breathalyzer or sobriety tests, but gave the pair a ride home, according to the affidavit. The sheriff's office turned the case over to the Blackfeet tribal justice system. Chief tribal prosecutor Carl Pepion said Thursday he asked the U.S. attorney's office to review the case. Federal prosecutors are pursuing charges under the federal Assimilated Crimes Act, which allows them to apply state laws to offenses committed in Indian country that are not specifically addressed in federal law. The three misdemeanor charges identified in the warrant application all fall under the Montana code.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or funded.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Cherokee up and coming WNBA player inspires area Native youth

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – After April 15, there was never any doubt in Amanda Mink’s mind.

Growing up, the Stilwell native played basketball at a recreation center in nearby Cherry Tree. Among the other area residents who played there was Cherokee Nation citizen Angel Goodrich, who was picked in the third round of the 2013 WNBA draft by the Tulsa Shock. The Shock play their home games at the BOK Center, about 100 miles west of the largely Cherokee Adair County community.

“As soon as her name was announced on draft night, we called and bought four season tickets,” Mink said. “She hadn’t even made the roster yet, but we believe in her that much. There was no question in our minds that she’d make the team.”

The Shock front office does not release the number of season tickets sold each season, but representatives have said publicly that ticket sales have increased each year the team has been in Tulsa, with a greater spike this season. Part of that increase can be attributed to the Shock’s other 2013 draft pick, former Notre Dame standout point guard Skylar Diggins, but some of those new Shock fans are due to the Sequoyah High School graduate on the roster.

“I used to watch them (the Shock) on TV maybe once or twice a year on TV, but that was it,” Mink said. “We didn’t go to games until this year.”

One of two 2013 third-round draft picks league-wide to make it past training camp, Goodrich averages four points and 2.5 assists per game for the Shock (3-7). In Saturday’s 92-70 win over the Seattle Storm (4-4), she was one of six Tulsa players to score in double-digits, logging a season-high 10 points and five assists in 17 minutes of game time off of the bench.

“Our bench did an outstanding job,” Shock coach Gary Kloppenburg said Saturday night. “I thought Angel did an outstanding job getting the ball inside.”

Already the highest-selected Native American in WNBA draft history, Goodrich became the first tribal citizen to start a game during the Shock home opener on May 27 against the Washington Mystics. To date, she is one of three Native Americans to have played in the league since games



Angel Goodrich goes up for two against the Seattle Storm Saturday night in Tulsa. TROY LITTLEDEER | COURTESY

began in 1997.

“I didn’t really know what to expect coming in,” Goodrich said. “Obviously, it was new and different, but it’s been fun and it’s been a great journey so far.

“It’s amazing that I get to experience this opportunity and that it’s close to home makes it even better.”

With 25 self-identifying Native Americans playing Division 1 college basketball during the 2011-2012 season

– the most recent season statistics for which are available – and even fewer Native athletes playing professionally, at least one Cherokee child in Adair County is paying closer attention to the WNBA team down State Highway 51 this season.

“My son looks up to her,” Mink said. “He’s nine years old and yells as loud as he can every time she gets in a game. She’s just a great role model for all of these Native kids.”

Remember the Removal riders finish 950-mile retrace of the Trail of Tears

JULIE HUBBARD
Cherokee Nation

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – There were hundreds of hills, a few minor spills, but mostly thrills for the 2013 Remember the Removal bike riders who completed their 950-mile ride across seven states to finish in Tahlequah Friday.

The Cherokee Nation had 15 riders and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians had seven participate in the bike ride to retrace their ancestors’ footsteps along the northern route of the Trail of Tears.

“These riders returned to us safely with the words ‘Never Forget’ emblazoned on the back of their well-traveled jerseys, and with a better understanding of what our ancestors experienced along the Trail 175 years ago,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said during the return ceremony. “We will never forget their sacrifices, and that we are here today because of our ancestors’ strength, perseverance and fortitude.”

The group, ranging in age from 15 to 54, started in New Echota, Ga., on June 3 and traveled across Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas before rolling onto the Courthouse Square in Tahlequah to a return ceremony with family, friends and food.

“The ride has been an amazing experience and shaped my perspective of what our ancestors encountered along the trail,” said Jon Ross, rider and descendant of Chief John Ross. “It’s been a hard trek, but the struggles offer a small taste of what our ancestors experienced many years ago.”

Marvel Welch, 54, from Cherokee, N.C., said the experience and relationships built along the ride amazed her.

“The energy that these kids

have is just so unbelievable, and they helped me get to where I’m at right now,” Welch said of her victory completing the ride.

On the journey, the Remember the Removal riders visited various gravesites and historic landmarks along the trail, including Blythe Ferry in Tennessee, which was the last piece of Cherokee homeland the ancestors stood on before beginning the trek to Indian Territory, and Mantle Rock in Kentucky, which provided shelter to the ancestors as they waited for the Ohio River to thaw in order to cross safely.

The ride was started at the Cherokee Nation in 1984 so Cherokee youth would never forget the hardships of their Cherokee ancestors who made the same trek on foot. Of the estimated 16,000 forced to make the journey to Indian Territory, approximately 4,000 died due to exposure, starvation and disease.

The journey of the 2013 Remember the Removal Bike Ride can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/removal.ride>.

- Participants were:
- Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma
Benjamin Keener, 20, Claremore
Blake Henson, 15, Fort Gibson
Carter Copeland, 16, Tulsa
Haydn Comingdeer, 17, Stilwell
Hestin Lamons, 18, Tahlequah
Jon Ross, 23, Tahlequah
Joseph Keener, 18, Claremore
Lane Holcomb, 16, Vian
LaTasha Atcity, 23, Tahlequah
Lillie Keener, 18, Claremore
Marshall Smith, 18, Hulbert
Noah Collins, 18, Claremore
Paige Carnes, 18, Tahlequah
Robert Ketcher, 23, Stilwell
Sarah Holcomb, 24, Vian
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Elias Huskey, 18, Cherokee, N.C.
Hilary Gallegos, 40, Knoxville, Tenn.
Joey Owle, 24, Cherokee, N.C.
Kate Cooper, 15, Cherokee, N.C.
Marvel Welch, 54, Cherokee, N.C.
Tighe Wachacha, 32, Cherokee, N.C.
Yona Wade, 32, Cherokee, N.C.



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian citizen Marvel Welch led the Remember the Removal riders down the sidewalk leading to the Cherokee Nation Courthouse Square. COURTESY

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Affirmative action ruling contest: race vs. class

■ Research has confirmed large proportions of minority students at selective colleges come from middle- and upper-income families.

JUSTIN POPE
AP Education Writer

In post-Great Recession America, which is the bigger barrier to opportunity – race or class?

A decade ago, the U.S. Supreme Court kept the focus on race as a barrier, upholding the right of colleges to make limited use of racial preferences to ensure a diverse student body. But in a ruling due this month, the court is widely expected to roll back that decision. Such an outcome would shift attention more toward a less constitutionally controversial practice: giving a boost to socio-economically disadvantaged students, regardless of race.

If that happens, it would reflect more than just a more conservative makeup of the justices. Over the last decade, clogged social mobility and rising economic inequality have shifted the conversation on campuses and in the country as a whole.

As a barrier to opportunity, class is getting more attention, while race is fading.

“The cultural zeitgeist has changed,” said Peter Sacks, author of the book “Tearing Down the Gates: Confronting the Class Divide in American Education.”

“The Great Recession really exacerbated the vast and growing inequalities between rich and poor in America,” he said. “Talking openly about class has been taboo,” he added, but in recent years the evidence of widening inequality has mounted and it’s become “OK for the so-called 99 percent to talk about the 99 percent.”

The shift is perceptible in a range of ways:

–You can see it in polling, like surveys from the Pew Research Center, which

shows the percentage of Americans who feel racial discrimination is the chief impediment to black progress is falling, from 37 percent in 1995 to 23 percent in 2012.

Polling on affirmative action varies widely depending on how questions are phrased, but an ABC News/Washington Post poll released Wednesday showed strong feelings about using race in college admissions: Just 22 percent of Americans support letting universities consider applicants’ race as a factor, and 76 percent oppose the practice. The proportions supporting racial preferences were similar for blacks (19 percent) and Hispanics (29 percent) as for whites (20 percent).

–You can read it in the tone of recent opinion pieces penned even by left-leaning academics and columnists, whose support for racial preferences has eroded under a mountain of evidence that quality higher education is tilting further toward the already-wealthy.

–You can hear it, too – in conversations on elite college campuses, where the dearth of low-income students is replacing race as a topic of debate. And in the words of the first black president, who has said there’s no good reason his own daughters should benefit from racial preferences when they apply to college.

The shifting debate has painted supporters of race-based affirmative action into a difficult corner. Most agree the barriers to low-income students are a serious problem that should be addressed, and of course, many minority students are also low-income.

But they acknowledge widening income inequality has made it harder to make their case that special attention to race remains justified.

“This is the first time you have whites thinking they face more discrimination than blacks do,” said Camille Charles, a sociologist at the University of Pennsylvania who studies class and race. “You have people who have come to believe the system is set up to benefit black

people at the expense of white people.” Such beliefs, she said, reflect ignorance about the persistence of discrimination, about how much harder minorities were hit by the Great Recession, and about how affirmative action actually works (many incorrectly conflate “affirmative action” with “racial quotas,” which the Supreme Court long ago ruled unconstitutional).

In his 2010 book “The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth,” Harvard economic historian Benjamin Friedman charted how during periods of prosperity, societies throughout history have expanded opportunities to disadvantaged groups and become more open and inclusive. During economic struggle, by contrast, they typically close ranks.

The Great Recession was no exception, he said, persuading more Americans that efforts to ensure minorities are represented among the scarce slots at top universities are “a luxury they cannot afford,” Friedman said by telephone.

A report released Thursday by the Lumina Foundation underscored the large and persistent achievement gaps between races in the United States: Nearly 60 percent of Asian adults have a college degree, compared to 43 percent of whites but just 27 percent of blacks and 19 percent of Hispanics.

More alarming are the numbers for those between 25 and 29 – an indicator of recent trends. Whites and Asians are doing better than their parents. Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are doing worse. That’s a problem for everyone, said Lumina president and CEO Jamie Merisotis.

“Narrowing these gaps is a matter of economic and social collective self-interest,” he said.

But other numbers in the same report revealed how profoundly family income determines how far you go in school: Four-fifths of 24-year-olds from families in the top quarter of income have college degrees, compared to just one in 10 in the bottom quartile.

Other research, while calling the black-white degree gap worrisome, concludes the gap measured by class alone is far broader. Students of all races from educated affluent families are seven times more likely to complete a bachelor’s degree than students from low-income families with less education (68 percent compared to 9 percent).

One study of the freshmen entering the 193 most selective colleges in 2010 found two-thirds came from

lobbying for more financial aid.

But mostly, said Chase Sackett, who helped found the organization while an undergraduate at Washington University and is now a law student at Yale, the groups are getting people to talk about the previously taboo subjects of class, money and inequality.

College students are actually fairly accustomed to talking about race, he said, but class “was something that was under the rug.”

More alarming are the numbers for those between 25 and 29 – an indicator of recent trends. Whites and Asians are doing better than their parents. Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are doing worse.

the top income quartile. Only 15 percent came from the bottom half of the country, income-wise.

At the top 20 law schools, another study found, more than three-quarters of students came from the richest income quartile.

“We continue to struggle with racial discrimination in this country, but class has become a far larger impediment to a person’s life chances than race,” said Richard Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at The Century Foundation, and a prominent advocate for replacing race-based affirmative action with class-conscious measures.

On college campuses, arguments over race and gender have predominated for decades, but the lack of socio-economic diversity is getting more attention. One sign of the trend is the emergence of a student group called “U/FUSED” (United for Undergraduate Socio-Economic Diversity), with chapters on about 20 prominent campuses. Chapters at campuses like Wesleyan University and Washington University in St. Louis have undertaken a range of efforts, from developing a financial literacy curriculum to

He said minority groups have been eager to join the conversation, seeing it as complementary to the issues they care about.

Kahlenberg, who informally advises the group, said such an organization would have been unthinkable in his own college days during the 1980s. But “the facts on the ground have changed.” The test-score gap between blacks and whites, he noted, was once twice as big as the gap between rich and poor students. Now that’s flipped and the income gap is twice as big as the racial one.

Sackett said he and the group don’t necessarily oppose race-based affirmative action; they just want more efforts to deal with socio-economic diversity.

Indeed, many people ask, why not do both? Kahlenberg says he’s all for that, but “universities never get around to the class part of the equation. They would rather have a class of fairly wealthy students of all races.” A big obstacle is cost: By definition low-income students need more financial aid, while race-based preferences don’t necessarily go to the neediest students. In fact, research has confirmed large proportions

of minority students at selective colleges come from middle- and upper-income families.

Kahlenberg believes with some creativity, colleges can use class-based affirmative action to ensure racial diversity. That’s happened at many schools in states where affirmative action is already banned. However, the broader consensus is that, at least in the short term and at the most elite schools, replacing race-based preferences with class-based efforts would cause minority enrollment to fall.

“Low-income will not replace diversity,” said Ted Spencer, admissions director at the University of Michigan, which won the right to use race as an admissions factor in the 2003 Supreme Court case, but later lost it in a voter referendum. Michigan’s numbers of minority students have not fully recovered.

But Spencer emphasized the court’s justification for race-based affirmative action has never been only about minorities, or about rectifying society-wide discrimination, or about pitting racial barriers against class ones.

Rather, the court’s justification was educational – that all students benefit from a racially diverse student body. Employers increasingly want students accustomed to working with people from different groups, and many students want that experience, too. If the court rules as expected, he’s worried they’ll have few options.

“As we prepare people for work and life,” he said, “the absence of diversity on campus deprives all of our students of a very important part of their academic growth.”

*Lumina Foundation Report: <http://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation>
Century Foundation report on alternative to race-based admissions: <http://bit.ly/17JVWtw>*

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County, tribe sign unique arrest agreement

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) – The Yakima County sheriff and the Yakama Nation have signed an agreement concerning arrests on tribal lands, ending decades of disputes on the 1.2 million-acre reservation.

The agreement signed by tribal and county officials says deputies must contact tribal police before executing warrants on tribal members on tribal land, and be willing to allow a tribal police officer to be present during the arrest, The Yakima Herald-Republic reported in Saturday’s newspaper.

The memorandum also requires deputies to book tribal members into Yakama tribal jail until a formal extradition is filed to transfer a defendant to county custody.

“I feel ecstatic about this,” Tribal Council Chairman Harry Smiskin said Friday telephone. “It’s going to help defuse a lot of injustice that has occurred. It’s going to help defuse a lot of racial tension between non-Indians and Indians on the reservation, and it’s going to save the county a heck of a lot of money.”

The Yakama Nation signed a treaty in 1855 with the federal government, in which the 10,000-member tribe retained authority to govern itself. It has its own police department and jail.

But in 1953, Congress enacted Public Law 280, which allowed several states to take over criminal and much civil authority of tribal members on their own reservations.

Yakama tribal authorities have retained much criminal authority over its members on the reservation, but are now petitioning to have the rest, including civil authority over its people, returned.

Stew Graham, chief of detectives with the sheriff’s office, said procedures for arresting and jailing tribal members have always been difficult in past agreements.

“This one seems to be the most workable,” Graham said.

The agreement comes on the heels of a lawsuit the tribe filed in March 2011 against the U.S. Department of Justice for allowing FBI agents and other law enforcement agencies to execute a search and seizure warrant on a tribal cigarette manufacturer on Feb. 16, 2011, without first notifying Yakama authorities. The lawsuit seeks a federal order requiring outside authorities to notify tribal authorities before executing warrants on the reservation.

Yakima County Commissioner Kevin Bouchey said he’s working to help two other counties overlapped by the reservation – Klickitat and Kittitas – become part of the agreement as well as two nontribal towns on the reservation, Toppenish and Wapato.

“That way we’re all working off the same playbook,” he said.

OSAGE

Continued from Page 1

even if its elected leaders do not,” Osage News Editor Shannon Shaw Duty said. “Principal Chief John Red Eagle failed to respond to an open records request we filed in January of this year. Our request was filed for a contract with Rod Hartness, a pipeline consultant.”

As per the tribe’s Open Records Act, Red Eagle’s office had 10 business days to provide the contract, request additional time or explain in writing why the request could not be fulfilled. Since Red Eagle’s office did not respond within 35 business days, the Open Records Act allows for the request in tribal court.

“Our claim filed in the

Osage Nation Trial Court is another step toward building a stronger Osage Nation, where laws are followed and people are held accountable for their actions,” Shaw Duty said.

A hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on July 11. Potential penalties include a fine of up to \$5,000, plus attorney’s fees. Red Eagle’s office did not respond to requests for comment.

Earlier this month, the tribe’s attorney general filed an ethics complaint against Red Eagle, claiming the chief tried to block the investigation of a tribal employee and ordered the tribe’s gaming board pay for a member’s travel in full after deciding not to due to budget constraints. According to the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, a hearing is scheduled for July 8.

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY – 14 MONTH APPOINTMENT
The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Oklahoma is seeking applicants to fill a temporary Assistant U.S. Attorney position in the Criminal Division, not to exceed 14 months, which may be extended. Applicants must possess a J.D. degree, be an active member of the Bar in good standing (any U.S. jurisdiction), and have at least one (1) year post-J.D. legal or other relevant experience. See vacancy announcement 13-OKW-909033-A-02 at www.usajobs.gov (Exec Office for US Attorneys). Applications must be submitted on-line. See How to Apply@ section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Lisa Engelke, Administrative Officer, via e-mail at lisa.engelke@usdoj.gov. This announcement is open from June 24, 2013 through July 5, 2013.

Property & Records Management Director
The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will begin accepting applications for the Property & Records MANAGEMENT Director. The incumbent will work under the supervision of the Executive Director. Will utilize own initiative and experience while following. Federal, State, and Tribal policies. Responsible for all personal property assigned to designated areas In accordance with the provisions of property regulations. The incumbent also maintains insurance policies by processing premium paperwork on a monthly basis. Other duties assigned by the Executive Director. QUALIFICATION: Associates degree with (2) yrs. Related experience in property and/or records management. Prefer Bachelor degree in business or related field. Must possess typing skills and be proficient in Microsoft. REQUIREMENT: Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver’s license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug testing. APPLY AT: The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, OK 73015. CLOSING DATE: July 19, 2013 C.O.B. EOE UP PL -93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION
Bacone College is looking for a qualified, motivated individual who can manage all functions of the Division of Adult Ed programs and supervise all personnel with the division. Bachelors Degree required, Masters Preferred. Send letter of application, resume, salary requirements and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Office of Attorney General
Assistant Attorney General

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The Eastern Shoshone Office of Attorney General has an opening for a motivated individual to perform legal services as the Assistant Attorney General for the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, including a spectrum of highly complex, in-depth legal services to routine legal matters pertaining to the Tribe as a governmental entity, its programs and designated representatives.

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Required: A licensed attorney with a J.D. from an A.B.A. accredited law school, a Wyoming State license to practice law or the ability to obtain such within one (1) year of hire, and a Wind River Bar license within ninety (90) days of hire, either through exam or waiver. Minimum five (5) years law practice experience with a preference in Tribal government emphasis, or other Tribal-related or federal Indian law experience. DRUG TESTING REQUIRED.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center is seeking qualified people to sit on its Board of Directors. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2013. Comanche tribal members preferred.

Send resumes to: Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, Attn: Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi, Executive Director, 701 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton, OK, 73507.

Previous applicants need not apply.

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THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH JULY 14

Cherokee Women in Art exhibit,

Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville. Exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

JUNE 27

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Cherokee NationHealth Services will be in Muskogee distributing free gunlocks as part of the Youth Suicide Means Restriction Campaign. Three Rivers Health Center, 1001 S. 41st St. East. For more information, call Mindy Hanson, 918-889-0981.

JUNE 28-30

Annual Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, Tonkawa, Okla. Info call Miranda Allen-Myer 580-628-2561 Email: info@tonikawatribe.com Website:www.tonkawatribe.com

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JULY 2-4

Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration at Carnegie City Park, Carnegie. Gourd dancing, stunning shawls and drumming exhibitions. 6am-11pm. Contact Phil Dupoint, 580-654-2300.

JULY 3 - JULY 28

Inaugural Pani Star Native American Art Show, Berry Building, 657 Harrison, Pawnee, OK .Artist Reception July 3,

2013 @ 6:30 p.m. For More Information Contact: Rebekah Horsechief @ (918) 762-3227 Ext. 22 or Austin Real Rider @ (918) 399-5470

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 or ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-6

Thunderbird Casino 26th Annual Powwow, Norman. Intertribal dancing only July 4th. All contestants must dance in Grand Entry and Intertribal dancing in full regalia and number in full display. All day events. Contact Sue Blanchard, 405-312-4621 or Leonard Longhorn, 405-481-0674.

JULY 4-7

Pawnee Indian Veterans 67th Annual Homecoming, Memorial Park in Pawnee, Okla. Run and softball tournament Sat. at 8am. Parade Sat. at Noon. For complete schedule or info call David Echohawk, 918-873-0499 or visit online pawneeindianveteransorg@gmail.com or on Facebook at Pawnee Indian Veterans Organization (Official)

JULY 5-7

Quapaw Tribal Powwow at 5681 S 630 Rd, Quapaw. Celebration includes dancing, contests, vendors and plenty of family fun. 8am-close. Contact Everett Bandy at 918-542-1853 or ebandy@quapawtribe.com.

JULY 6

Mose YellowHorse Co-Ed Softball Tournament at Pawnee Baseball Fields. Double elimination. \$125 entry fee. More info contact Waylon Cotanny, 580-310-4133 waylon.cotanny@chickasaw.net Or Randi Estes rcestes72@yahoo.com

JULY 11-14

Sac & Fox Nation Powwow at 920883 S State Hwy 99, Stroud. Dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, outdoor camping and much more. 8pm-close. Contact Robert

Williamson, 918-225-5788 r 918-290-0554.

JULY 13

Choctaw Nation election for Districts 4 and 9 council representatives. Info: Election Board, P. O. Box 278, Durant, OK 74702-0748, or call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2199, 2535, and 2536

JULY 18-21

Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment at the Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds, 7500 Hwy 177, Red Rock. Includes gourd dancing, a 5K run and contest dancing. Free and open to the public. Event times vary. Contact Heather Payne, 580-723-4466.

JULY 19-21

Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Sultan Park, 129 E Colorado St, Walters. Categories of dance competition will include gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Contact 580-492-3240.

JULY 26-28

44th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow at 193rd & Javine Hill Road, Skiatook. 6:30pm-close. Contact Donna Phillips, 918-381-7996, dkphillips2002@gmail.com.

JULY 26-28

63rd Annual Indian Hills Powwow at 9300 North Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. 8am-close. Contact Berdina Kodasset, 405-201-1283.

JULY 30

Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4

Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 15-18

Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public.

2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30-31

Eufaula Indian Community Powwow & Homecoming Eastside Ballpark, Eufaula. eufaulachamberofcommerce.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1

Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah. www.cherokeetourismok.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1

Ottawa Powwow & Celebration at Adawe Park, 11400 S 613 Rd, Miami. Free and open to the public. Friday 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-midnight. Contact Craig Satepauhoodle, 918-542-1536.

SEPTEMBER 6-8

Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow at Wyandotte Nation Tribal Grounds, E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte. Grand entries Friday 8pm, Sat 1:30pm & 7pm, Sun 1:30pm. Contact Sherri Clemons, 918-678-2297.

SEPTEMBER 12-14

Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville. Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15

Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida, Wyandotte. Events held all day. Contact Kenna Simmons, 918-666-2435.

SEPTEMBER 27-28

Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

SEPTEMBER 28

The Chickasaw Annual Meeting Various Locations, Tishomingo.

Film brings Native philosophy to mainstream

CHRISTINA ROSE
Native Sun News

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Actor Saginaw Grant, Meskwaki, is in the rare position of sharing the limelight with Johnny Depp in the Lone Ranger and beginning work on another Hollywood film, “Eagle Lake,” which will explore the wisdom of a respected Native elder.

Making films has given Grant an outlet to share the wisdom he received from his own grandparents and his personal experiences. “When I was growing up, I never imagined myself to be doing what I am doing now, but it happened in a way that gives me a way to talk to people. And some people listen to you, and some retain what is said.”

“Eagle Lake” is now in the earliest stages of pre-production after eight years of planning.

“The new film project has universal themes; it’s basis is bringing people, both children and adults, back to the basics of listening to our elders and remembering traditions,” Casting Director Lani Melisa said. “When they asked me to be the casting director, the script brought my attention to the story, that family it is so important. It’s about trying to bring people together and coming from Native philosophy of an elder.”

Melisa said the story embraces all people and has a very positive message.

She is also hoping the film will bring about a better understanding of Native American cultures, and will hopefully remove some of the misunderstandings and racism Native people encounter.

According to Melisa, Grant was responsible for the casting of Actors Mariana Tosca, who starred in “Christmas in the Clouds” opposite Graham Greene, M. Emmet Walsh and Wes Studi, among other films, and Rick Mora, Yaqui, of “Twilight”. Grant had called Mora directly to be interviewed for this role, and Mora responded, “I will be there,” Melisa said. “When I asked Rick if he would be interested in the role, his answer was, ‘When an elder asks you to do something, you never ask a question or turn it down. You just show up.’”

With that answer, Grant knew he wanted Mora to be cast,” Melisa said. “Both of these actors have the kind of thinking that our ancestors taught us; their love for family and humanity, and most of all respect for all people not just Native people.”

“The story is a universal message about

family, tradition and culture coming from a Native philosophy,” Melisa said, adding that the movie does not identify any particular tribe. What Grant and Speiss agreed upon is that the “Native American” philosophy is for everyone.

“The Native people are my main concern,” Grant said. “Respect your culture, be open with everything and everybody, and be honest so people come to believe in what you are saying. Way down deep we all have spirituality.”

Throughout the interview, Grant expressed many feelings about the film and his life. At 76, he remembers with great sadness the beatings he endured at boarding school. His greatest sadness is that the school caused him to lose his language. However, he has found his life’s purpose fulfilled by carrying out his responsibility as an elder, reminding youth to remember their traditions, and hoping this film will also remind people from every walk of life to remember what is important.

Prior to this film, Grant had worked on a shorter film with Writer/Director Raymond Speiss, who had been the Supervisor of the television show, “The Sopranos.” Speiss has worn many hats in the film industry but one day found himself driving down the highway in Los Angeles, sitting in traffic for hours, and suddenly wondered if the original people of the land could ever have imagined what L.A. would look like today. From that, a short film called, “Dreamer” was born.

In “Dreamer”, Grant played an Apache man who, while riding his horse across the desert in the early 1600s, was suddenly was struck by a vision of the future, complete with genocide, wars, machinery, artillery, and all of the worst that the world has suffered.

“That was the first time I directed and wrote,” Speiss said. The film was accepted into Sundance Film Festival, in the Native Forum category. It was also screened at the American Indian Festival in San Francisco, and festivals in Malibu, Long Beach, and Berkeley. The film did well, picking up awards at each festival. Speiss said, “My father is Yaqui and when I went into the service, in the mid ’70s that was when the tribe was recognized. My father was not connected to his culture, and at that point in my life we didn’t know the connection to our past.”

Speiss recognized that as time goes on and generations go on, “little pieces of our tradition and culture get lost along the way.”

And that is the premise that starts the film. “Now it’s a fight to get kids away from the computer and get them to go fishing, or just get out in nature. Tribes all over are losing their languages and connections with grandma and grandpa. That’s why Saginaw and I are pushing to get this film made.”

Throughout the film, there are many messages Grant hopes will reach the world

speak their language.”

Grant said that he has hopes the new film, “Eagle Lake,” will make a difference, reminding children how important it is to listen to their elders. “I am no different than you or any family,” Grant said. “The important thing is always be helpful to someone, complement each other, don’t look at the bad things people do. If we just stop and



LISA SNELL | NATIVE TIMES

Saginaw Grant visits with other attendees of the Lone Ranger movie premiere June 21 in Lawton, Oklahoma.

at large. “The concept of “Dreamer” was about an elder going out to the desert and he went to sleep, and he dreamed about all the negative things that happened here. He met his creator and he met himself. But everything that happened, all of the negativity, could be prevented if people relate and talk to one another. We are just people, we are living creatures. I don’t run down the government or people; it happened in the past. If we do that, we are going to make ourselves feel bad,” Grant said.

While the script is filled with wisdom common to indigenous philosophy, much of it is not very common to the rest of the world, and Grant is hoping people will listen. “In California, we have the beautiful sun. This morning I said, ‘Good morning, Grandpa Sun. (In the film) that is what I am going to teach this man. But this young man in real life, he knows already, he minds his folks. I met the family, and they

think about what we have in life, we would be happy. Life should be appreciated, and it kind of makes me sad to understand what we are doing to ourselves. We can change it if we put our minds to it.”

The film also reminds people to listen to and care for Mother Earth. Grant said, “Eventually there will be no more oil. Nothing lasts forever. We have this climate change; grammar is caving in and taking homes. I am thinking it might be too late but I hope not.”

The company is in the process of raising funds and hopes to begin pre-production in early August, and to begin shooting in September. There are still roles that are open and casting will continue. To see which roles are being cast and to follow the films process, visit Eagle Lake on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eagle-LakeMovie/364767313645093?fref=ts>

– Copyright permission by Native Sun News

RED CARPET

Continued from Page 1

advance screening of the movie and a 15-minute talk by Depp.

Comanche Nation Chairman Wallace Coffey didn’t address the Native Times, but in speaking with the Daily Oklahoman, said the tribe lobbied Disney for the special premiere to be held in the Comanche Nation.

“It was a lot of work for us, just to convince Disney that this needs to be done. That Indian Country

It was just too cost prohibitive,” explained Verbinski, who worked the media line along with Jerry Bruckheimer, who produced the film with Depp.

According to the film’s website, “Native American warrior Tonto (Johnny Depp) recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid (Armie Hammer), a man of the law, into a legend of justice – taking the audience on a runaway train of epic surprises and humorous friction as the two unlikely heroes must learn to work together and fight against greed and corruption.”

Depp was obviously popular with fans, however, the burning question across the Native Times Facebook page has been, “Why is Tonto being played by a non-Native?”

“He was always Tonto. When you get Johnny Depp, you know, as an actor, it’s hard to beat him,” Bruckheimer said.

He would still be Johnny Depp if he played the Lone Ranger instead.

Why not a Native actor? Wes Studi or perhaps Adam Beach?

“Well, he’s part Native. He’s been adopted by the Comanche Nation. It’s nice, don’t you think? Through history, they’re actors. They play a lot of different parts. They play a lot of different nationalities. That’s what Hollywood is all about.”

Before turning away to take his own cell phone photos of the ceremonial dancers and tribal princesses crowded in the shade at the theater entrance, Bruckheimer smiled. “You’ll have to see the movie.”

Also on the carpet was actor Gil Birmingham, of Comanche descent, who is known for his role as Billy Black in the “Twilight” saga movies and for parts in the Native films “Skins” and “Crooked Arrows” as well as the TV series “Into the West.” Birmingham didn’t speak to the media but posed for

photos with fans before retreating to the relative cool of the theater entrance.

Depp’s arrival was heralded with a sudden shout from the bleachers and squeals from teen fans pressed up against the barricades lining the red carpet. Cell phone cameras clicked as Depp and the Natives in attendance stood in respectful silence while a cedar ceremony was performed for Depp who was on the arm of his adoptive Comanche mother, LaDonna Harris.

Harris, a long-time advocate for Native American civil rights and president of Americans for Indian Opportunity, which according to its website was founded to create new avenues for international Indigenous interaction and explore ways Indigenous peoples can influence globalization, adopted Depp in a traditional ceremony in May 2012.

Harris said in interviews at that time that she thought it would be “fun” to adopt him - a tradition she said is common in Comanche culture. Depp has been considered an honorary citizen of the tribe since.

Dressed in head-to-toe black and sporting a beaded medallion depicting his Tonto character, Depp escorted Harris down the carpet to the shade of the theater entrance before venturing out into the crowd to pose for photos and autograph movie flyers for fans.

Wiping his brow, he remained gracious while navigating the media and being ushered by four security officers who turned out in suits and ties despite the southwestern Oklahoma summer heat.

Across the carpet, a group of little boys chanted “Johnny Depp! Johnny Depp! Johnny Depp!”

“Last one,” said one of the guards. “This is the Native American Times.”

Why not play the Lone Ranger and let an Indian be Tonto?

“As a small child watching the Lone Ranger, it was always Tonto. I could never identify with the Lone Ranger. I never understood why [Tonto] was considered a sidekick. It sounds horrible, but I remember watching John Wayne films and



Film producer Jerry Bruckheimer pauses to snap his own photos of red carpet guests in front of the Carmike Theater, in Lawton, Okla.

needs to be given consideration for a special screening,” Coffey said. “It’s just very impressive and [Depp] plays an awesome role.”

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians and lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, led the procession up the red carpet, followed by Navajo Nation President Ben Shirley.

Much of the film was shot in the Navajo Nation, instead of the character Tonto’s Comanche homelands in Oklahoma. Adding locations in Oklahoma wasn’t in the cards, according to the film’s director, Gore Verbinski.

“It just wasn’t practical, unfortunately. You need a base of operations for 400, sometimes 700 people. We needed a hub. Our hub was in New Mexico. We shot in Utah. We shot in Colorado. We shot in Arizona and we shot in Texas.



PHOTOS BY LISA SNELL | NATIVE TIMES

Fancy Dancers put on an exhibition while fans awaited the arrival of the Lone Ranger film VIPs.

hating John Wayne – the image of the patriotic American and all he did was kill Indians. It didn’t make sense to me,” Depp said.

“That’s it, let’s go!” a member of the security team motioned toward

the theater.

Isn’t all this a little weird to you?

“Not at all,” Depp said, smiling over his shoulder as he was hustled away by the men in suits.



Actor Gil Birmingham poses with fans.

Inside this issue:

- Reflection, prayer circles on ICWA case
- Tobacco compact talks go into overtime
- Choctaw Days at nation’s capitol



NATIVE TIMES

Judge: ICWA doesn’t apply to Baby Veronica

WASHINGTON (AP) – A divided Supreme Court ruled last week that federal law doesn’t require that a Native American girl be given back to her biological father, but also doesn’t clear her adoptive parents to immediately regain custody of the now 3-year-old child.

In a June 25 resolution that one justice said could compound “the anguish this case has caused,” the high court voted 5-4 to send the case back to courts in South Carolina to determine the final

home for an adopted little girl named Veronica.

South Carolina courts originally said the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act – a federal law intended to keep Indian children from being taken from their homes and typically placed with non-Indian adoptive or foster parents – favored her living with her biological father, who took custody of her in 2011. But the South Carolina couple who raised her for the first 27 months of her life appealed that decision, and justices have ordered her case

reconsidered.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the court’s majority, said the ICWA didn’t apply in this case because the biological father never had custody of the child and abandoned her before birth. The law “doesn’t apply in cases where the Indian parent never had custody of the Indian child,” said Alito, who was joined in his opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts, and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Stephen Breyer.

Alito also said the law doesn’t stop non-Native Americans from adopting the child when no other eligible candidates stepped forward.

“The Act would put certain vulnerable children at a great disadvantage solely because an ancestor – even a remote one – was an Indian,” Alito said. “A biological Indian father could abandon his child in utero and refuse any support for the birth



FILE
The Supreme Court sends the case of Baby Veronica back to South Carolina for reconsideration.

See **VERONICA** on Page 3

Court weakens voting discrimination law

WASHINGTON (AP) – A deeply divided U.S. Supreme Court threw out the most powerful part of the landmark law that forced open voting booths for minorities decades ago in the face of sometimes violent opposition in mostly Southern states, noting that

the times have changed. President Barack Obama, the country’s first black chief executive, said he was “deeply disappointed” with the decision.

Split along ideological and partisan lines, the justices voted 5-4 Tuesday to halt enforcement of the

requirement in the Voting Rights Act that all or parts of 15 states with a history of discrimination in voting get Washington’s approval before changing the way they hold elections.

The Voting Rights Act

See **VOTING** on Page 4

Jewell makes emotional pledge to Native Americans

SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) – In her first address to Indian Country as the new U.S. interior secretary, Sally Jewell made an emotional pledge Thursday to help right past wrongs against Native Americans and work with tribes “nation-to-nation” to protect their sovereignty and develop their cultural and natural resources to become more economically self-reliant.

Jewell, who became secretary in April, fought back tears and paused to compose herself near the close of her remarks



Sally Jewell, U.S. Interior Secretary

to about 300 delegates of the National Congress of American Indians in Reno. The casino-ballroom audience gave her a standing ovation.

In her speech, the former Seattle CEO of outdoor retailer Recreational Equipment Inc. told of her childhood experiences with Native Americans growing up in and around the Puget Sound area of Washington state. She then recounted the “different view” she had when she returned as secretary this spring to a favorite kayaking spot at an island near Olympia across from reservation land.

“I thought about my obligations to you,” Jewell said. She paused, then added, “I’m going to get emotional here.

“The federal government does not have a

See **JEWELL** on Page 5



KYLE GRANTHAM| CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE
Chynna Addison, left, holds her son Dominic Addison, 1, as he receives a check-up from resident physician Blaine Levy, center right, and doctor Tom Radosevich at the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Clinic on July 17, 2012, in Casper, Wyo.

Native Americans using IHS exempt from Obamacare

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) – Last week the Obama administration broadened an exemption for American Indians from the new health care law’s requirement that virtually every U.S. resident has health insurance starting next year.

New rules issued June 26 clarify that people who are eligible to receive medical care through the federal Indian Health Service will be exempt from the requirement to have health insurance or face fines from the Internal Revenue Service. The Indian Health Service, a division of U.S. Health and Human Services, oversees a network

of clinics that are required through treaty obligations to serve all patients of Indian ancestry, even if they cannot document their federal tribal status.

“Today, we continue to fulfill our responsibility to consult and work with tribal communities,” Health and

See **IHS** on Page 2

IRS addresses Indian settlement tax questions

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – In an effort to clear up lingering tax questions over federal settlement payments, the Internal Revenue Service hosted a conference call last Wednesday afternoon.

“We understand the unprecedented settlement activity in Indian Country,” said Christie Jacobs, director of the IRS’ Office of Indian Tribal Governments. “This will hopefully clarify the tax obligations.”

Within an hour, IRS tax attorney Telly Meier broke down the tax requirements for participants in Cobell vs. Salazar, most tribal trust settlement suits and Keepseagle vs. Vilsack.

Payments began going out last year in the landmark Cobell case, with another round of checks

tentatively slated to go out this fall for trust administration class participants. Recipients will not have to account for the checks on their federal income tax returns.

“The settlement provides that payments received are non-taxable income,” Meier said. “Those funds are exempt from federal taxation.



Cobell Settlement funds are exempt from federal taxation. However, Keepseagle payments are taxable.

They will not be treated as income or a...resource. They will not be used to determine eligibility for additional benefits.”

Participants in the Cobell settlement’s fractionated land buyback program will not be taxed on their payments for one year.

Per capita payments from 68 tribal trust settlements is considered non-taxable income and does not impact participants’ eligibility for Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income benefits. Since it is non-taxable income, recipients would not receive a 1099 form for

tribal trust settlement payments.

Oklahoma tribes included in the settlement list are the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Pawnee Nation and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. A full list is available through the IRS’ tribal portal at www.irs.gov/tribal.

The tax-free status does not extend to all class action participants, however.

“Keepseagle is very different from Cobell and tribal trust settlements,” Meier said. “Those payments are taxable.”

The class action suit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture divided its claimants into two tracks. Track A participants were able to receive up to \$50,000, including a 25 percent direct payment to the IRS to offset the applicable taxes.

Track B participants could

receive up to \$250,000. However, Track B participants are not eligible for an offset payment to the IRS, making them squarely responsible come tax time.

Additionally, the settlement provided \$80 million for loan forgiveness programs. Meier said claimants who receive a portion of those funds will partially be on the hook for the applicable taxes.

“Generally, when a debt is forgiven, it’s taxable income,” he said. “That general rule is followed here, but like Track A, people getting debt forgiveness will automatically have a 25 percent payment sent to IRS on their behalf.”

To date, the Social Security Administration has not published anything on whether Keepseagle payments will impact a recipient’s eligibility for Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Court case stirs debate over Indian Child Welfare Act

■ Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent that “the anguish this case has caused will only be compounded” by the court’s ruling if another change is made in the girl’s living arrangements.

Justice Samuel Alito said the ICWA didn’t apply in this case because the biological father never had custody of Veronica and abandoned her before birth.

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to leave the ultimate placement of a 3-year-old girl in an American Indian child welfare case to a state court extends the custody dispute and the anguish for both her biological father and the couple who raised her for the first two years of her life.

The divided court ruled June 25 that federal law doesn’t require that Veronica Brown be given back to her Cherokee father but it also doesn’t clear her adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco, to immediately regain custody of her. They now must wait for a South Carolina court to determine Veronica’s final home.

Some children’s advocates said the ruling undermines the role that families and communities play in determining the best interests of children in their care, while the Cherokee Nation said the case should have been fully resolved with Veronica firmly in the hands of her biological father under a law passed in 1978 to reduce the high number of Indian children being removed from their homes and by public and private agencies.

“Everything this family has gone through the past two years just to keep his biological child, his baby girl, is more overwhelming than any of us can imagine,” said Cherokee Principal Chief Bill John Baker.

The nation’s highest court has twice taken up cases regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act, once in 1989 and again on Tuesday. The latest decision doesn’t have broad implications, experts say, but reignited discussion over the law meant to keep American Indian children

with Native families.

Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, said the case would apply only in circumstances where an American Indian father does not become involved before the child is born. He said most Indian custody cases aren’t contested. Even when they are, the two sides generally come together with a negotiated settlement that benefits the child, he said.

“I think the implementation of the law has been growing stronger over the years because people have learned more about it,” he said. “Problem cases have diminished over the years.”

Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the court’s majority, said the ICWA didn’t apply in this case because the biological father never had custody of Veronica and abandoned her before birth. He also said the law doesn’t stop non-Native Americans from adopting the child when no other eligible candidates stepped forward but could discourage them.

“A biological Indian father could abandon his child in utero and refuse any support for the birth mother – perhaps contributing to the mother’s decision to put the child up for adoption – and then could play his ICWA trump card at the eleventh hour to override the mother’s decision and the child’s best interest,” he wrote. “If this were possible, many prospective adoptive parents would surely pause before adopting any child who might possibly qualify as an Indian under the ICWA.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent that “the anguish this case has caused will only be compounded” by the court’s ruling if another change is made in the girl’s living arrangements.

The key author of the 1978 law, former U.S. Senator James Abourezk of South Dakota, said Tuesday that he was pleased the court’s decision in Veronica’s case seemed to be fairly narrow but felt the justices are trying to undermine tribe’s rights to govern themselves.

The 1989 U.S. Supreme Court case that affirmed the jurisdiction of tribal courts over adoptions has been applied to hundreds of American Indian custody cases. A member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians had given birth to twins then signed documents allowing a non-Indian couple to adopt the children. The high court found that despite giving birth about 200 miles away from the

reservation, the Indian Child Welfare Act still gave tribal courts jurisdiction over the adoption proceeding.

In December, the court denied review of a ruling that allowed a Navajo boy to remain with a non-American Indian family. The lower courts said the boy would have suffered severe distress if removed from his setting. The Navajo Nation had argued that tribal culture must be learned in a Navajo home through ceremonies and being surrounded by the language.

Utah attorney Wesley Hutchins defended a Salt Lake City couple who adopted two half-Navajo children in 2008 after the Navajo Nation challenged it. The tribe argued that the state failed to find an American Indian home for the children or transfer the case to tribal authorities. The Utah Supreme Court ruled in favor of the couple who had vowed

“Their fight is our fight and we will be there every step of the way,” he said.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association asked communities to join together in prayer Wednesday, June 26, to support the Brown family and the Indian Child Welfare Act, saying it has resonated personally among families in Indian Country.

Brown invoked the federal law to stop the adoption arranged by Veronica’s non-Indian mother when she was pregnant. The Capobianco’s were present at Veronica’s birth in Oklahoma. Brown had never met his daughter and, after the mother rebuffed his marriage proposal, played no role during the pregnancy and paid no child support after Veronica was born.

But when Brown found out Veronica was going to be adopted, he objected and said



FILE
Veronica Brown has been living with her father, Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown, near Nowata, Okla. for more than 18 months now.

to provide a culturally sensitive environment, Hutchins said.

Of Veronica’s case, Hutchins said Dusten Brown should have made his wishes to be a parent known earlier and provide financial support to establish interest in raising Veronica.

Baker, the Cherokee principal chief, said the tribe would continue to support Brown through prayers, thoughts and “every available resource.”

the law favored the girl living with him and growing up learning tribal traditions.

South Carolina courts agreed and Brown took Veronica back to Oklahoma at the end of 2011, even though she had lived with the Capobiancos for more than 2 years of her life.

Associated Press writers Jesse J. Holland in Washington, D.C., and Kristi Eaton in Sioux Falls, S.D., contributed to this report.

Key ICWA author calls high court ruling assault on tribes

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – The former South Dakota lawmaker who authored the law meant to keep Native American families together called last week’s ruling by the Supreme Court that a Native American child doesn’t have to be given to her biological father “an assault on tribal sovereignty.”

Former U.S. Sen. James Abourezk was the key lawmaker behind the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, a federal law intended to keep American Indian children from being taken from their homes and typically placed with non-Native American adoptive or foster parents. The application of the law was at the heart of custody case the Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday, June 25.

The justices ruled 5-4 that the law doesn’t give the Native American father a “trump card at the eleventh hour” to get the girl.

South Carolina courts said the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act favored the biological father of the girl. The South Carolina couple who raised her for the first 27 months of her life appealed that decision.

The justices did not go as far as they could have to take away tribal sovereignty with their decision, Abourezk



FILE
Baby Veronica has been living with her father, Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown, for more than 18 months now.

said, but he fears they are headed in that direction.

Abourezk led the American Indian Policy Review Commission, which investigated conditions in Indian Country in the 1970s. He said the commission heard lots of testimony showing how adoption by white social services agencies like the Mormon Church left tribes in turmoil because their children were being taken away.

“We found Indian kids grew up thinking they were white and starting to date and found out they were Indians, so that didn’t work well,” he said.

He said that the commission found that even if the Native American mother was alcoholic it was better that the Native American children stayed with her rather than be adopted by a white family.

“You build up the tribes” he said, not tear them down, which is what the government has been doing for hundreds of years, he said.

Meanwhile, Heather Smith, a spokeswoman for the ACLU in South Dakota, said the Supreme Court ruling should bolster a lawsuit the agency has filed against the state’s Department of Social

Services.

The ACLU, along with the Oglala Sioux and Rosebud Sioux tribes and three Native American parents, filed a suit in federal court in May, alleging the state routinely violates the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The lawsuit alleges that when children are removed from a home based on accusations of neglect or abuse, parents aren’t given a proper hearing to determine whether a child should be kept away longer.

Smith said the June 25 Supreme Court ruling affirms the federal law and the rights of existing families.

IHS

Continued from Page 1

Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement.

Last month, The Associated Press reported that the Affordable Care Act exempted only American Indians and Alaska Natives who can document their membership in one of about 560 tribes recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Yet more than 100 tribes nationwide are recognized only by states and not the federal government.

That meant thousands of people who consider themselves Native Americans would have to buy their own health insurance policies or pay a \$695 fine to the Internal Revenue Service unless they could prove they were eligible to claim an exemption under the Affordable Care Act. The health care law mandates that all Americans carry insurance, with just a few exemptions.

Caitrin McCarron, manager of congressional relations at the National Indian Health Board, said tribal advocates are pleased that the administration added an exemption for Native Americans who are eligible for services through an Indian health care provider. But the board is still pushing for Congress to change that

section of the federal law.

“We are really pleased that HHS decided to move forward with this exemption,” McCarron said. “However, we still believe that this was a stop-gap measure. Because it’s not a legislative fix and it’s the secretary’s exemption waiver, a future secretary could reverse the policy.”

While the exemption provides Native Americans who aren’t part of a federally recognized tribe with some financial relief, other discrepancies remain. Jay Stiener, an analyst with the National Council of Urban Indian Health in Washington, D.C., said some Native Americans could be on the hook for co-pays, deductibles and other cost-sharing requirements.

Also, he said members of federally recognized tribes are eligible to enroll throughout the year but not others.

The 2010 Census found that nearly one-third of the 6.2 million people who self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native lack health insurance and that 28 percent live in poverty.

In California alone, about 21,000 people who currently receive free health care through Indian clinics are not recognized as Native American by the federal government and would have to pay the penalty, according to the nonprofit California Rural Indian Health Board.



More than 30 people participated in a prayer circle Wednesday morning at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation complex in Okmulgee, Okla., in support of Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown and his family.

‘Baby Veronica’ prompts reflection, prayer circles across Indian Country

■ In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 25 that the parental rights of Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown can be terminated despite his tribal citizenship

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – After reading the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Adoptive Parents vs. Baby Girl*, Fawn White is a little torn.

In October 2011, the White Eagle native finalized the adoption of her son, Trevor. Although she sympathizes with the anguish Matt and Melanie Capobianco, the prospective adoptive parents of Baby Veronica, are wrestling with, the cultural ties and potential big picture implications from last week’s ruling leave her concerned.

“It’s hard for me to imagine what it would be like to have my child, who I have loved and cared for since birth, taken away because of an oversight,” White said. “On the other hand, I am a full-blood Native woman from the Ponca and Cherokee Nations. I understand and know the reasons behind ICWA [Indian Child Welfare Act]. I am fully aware of the history and trauma that has occurred. I come from a traditional home and am in full support of keeping our Native children in Native homes.”

In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 25 that the parental rights of Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown can be terminated despite his tribal citizenship. Brown had been contesting the attempted adoption of his now three-year-old daughter Veronica by a non-Native couple from South Carolina.

Citing Brown’s lack of involvement and financial support during the birth mother’s pregnancy, the Supreme Court’s decision reverses and remands a 2011 ruling by the South Carolina state supreme court that upheld a lower court’s decision to award custody to Brown under the terms of ICWA.

The decision does not automatically transfer custody of the little girl to the pre-adoptive parents. She has been living near Nowata with her father and stepmother for more than 18 months.

“I am disappointed in the decision of the Supreme Court,” White said. “I need to know the government values my culture and that assimilation is not the plan for us. I need to know my government stands up for me and affirms my rich traditions and that they will live on. I need to know my government is strong and can put their foot down and say, ‘No, this is not OK.’”

White is not the only one at least somewhat disappointed with last Tuesday’s Supreme Court ruling.

“It (the ruling) is narrow compared to what it might have been, but it is still troubling,” University of Oklahoma law professor Taiawagi Helton said. “It narrows the scope of ICWA by basically applying the Existing Family Doctrine.

“Although that exception has been rejected by most courts, the Supreme Court has essentially either recreated it or a parallel or an analogy to it in a way that is troubling.”

First introduced in 1982 by the Kansas Supreme Court, the “Existing Family Doctrine” is used in a handful of states to not apply the Indian Child Welfare Act in individual cases involving a Native child removed from a non-Native home. Nineteen states, including Kansas, have since rejected the doctrine either by law or by case precedent for its failure to recognize tribes’ interests in cultural preservation.

Despite the partial victory of ICWA being upheld as constitutional, there is still concern over the decision’s potential long-term implications for tribal sovereignty, Indian law and federal Indian policy moving forward.

“Separate from the adoption context, the opinion either hides or has consequences for Indian law more generally,” Helton said. “You can see from Alito’s opinion that he’s troubled by existence of Indian law.”

Calling the Indian Child Welfare Act an 11th hour trump card for Brown, Justice Samuel Alito made multiple references to the child’s blood quantum and claimed that the act could potentially put vulnerable children at risk because of a “remote Indian ancestor.” Unlike the other two federally-recognized Cherokee tribes, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, the Cherokee Nation bases citizenship eligibility on documented lineal descent and does not require a

minimum blood quantum.

“This opinion...illustrates that we have a bad Supreme Court when it comes to Indian law issues,” University of Tulsa adjunct law professor and Native American Rights Fund staff attorney Walter Echo Hawk said. “Court observances show us that since 1985, Indian tribes have lost more than 80 percent of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Those are frightening statistics that show us that even prison inmates fare better than Indian nations before the Supreme Court.

“An adverse decision of this nature impacting something as vital as our children...placing those interests in the hands of a hostile court is very frightening.”

In response to the decision, the National Indian Child Welfare Association coordinated a national day of prayer for the Brown family and Native children across the country. NICWA was one of more than 20 organizations that submitted an amicus brief, or friend of the court brief, in support of Brown and the Cherokee Nation earlier this year. Several tribes and Native communities nationwide hosted prayer circles, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

“Our job isn’t exactly sexy, but it is important,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family and Children’s Services manager Carmin Tecumseh-Williams said to the more than 30 people who participated in the tribe’s prayer circle Wednesday morning in Okmulgee. “We don’t bring in money like the casino. We take money. But we’re still important, though.

“This could happen to any of us. It could be any of our children or grandchildren. We have to be mindful that that’s our tribes’ futures at stake.”

○.....

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.....○

VERONICA

Continued from Page 1

mother – perhaps contributing to the mother’s decision to put the child up for adoption – and then could play his ICWA trump card at the eleventh hour to override the mother’s decision and the child’s best interest. If this were possible, many prospective adoptive parents would surely pause before adopting any child who might possibly qualify as an Indian under the ICWA.”

But Justice Sonia Sotomayor in her dissent pointed out that the court’s ruling doesn’t mean Veronica will now go back to her adoptive parents. The law gives tribes and relatives a say in decisions affecting a child, she said.

“The majority does not and cannot foreclose the possibility that on remand, Baby Girl’s paternal grandparents or other members of the Cherokee Nation may formally petition for adoption of Baby Girl,” she said. “If these parties do so, and if on remand, Birth Father’s parental rights are terminated so that an adoption becomes possible, they will then be entitled to consideration under the order of preference established in” federal law.

Her dissent was joined by Justices Antonin Scalia, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan.

Sotomayor said the court’s decision turns the law “upside down, reading it from bottom to top in order to reach a conclusion that is manifestly contrary to Congress’ express purpose in enacting ICWA: preserving the familial bonds between Indian parents and their children and, more broadly, Indian tribes’ relationships with the future citizens who are ‘vital to (their) continued existence and integrity.’”

Added Scalia in a separate dissent: “This father wants to raise his daughter, and the statute amply protects his right to do so. There is no reason in law or policy to dilute that protection.”

The Obama administration, 18 states, several Indian tribes, current and former members of Congress and children’s welfare groups filed briefs in support of the father. The National Council for Adoption and the American Association of Adoption Attorneys were among the groups that filed briefs in support of the South Carolina couple.

Dusten Brown, a member of the Cherokee Nation, invoked federal law to stop the adoption arranged by the girl’s non-Indian mother when she was pregnant and the Charleston, S.C.-area couple, Matt and Melanie Capobianco. The couple was present at Veronica’s birth in Oklahoma. Brown had never met his daughter and, after the mother rebuffed his marriage proposal, played no role during the pregnancy and paid no child support after Veronica was born.

But when Brown found out Veronica was going to be adopted, he objected and said the law favored the girl living with him and growing up learning tribal traditions.

South Carolina courts agreed and Brown took Veronica, now 3, back to Oklahoma at the end of 2011, even though she had lived with the Capobiancos for the first 27 months of her life.

The ruling returns the case to South Carolina court.

Sotomayor said “the anguish this case has caused will only be compounded” by the court’s ruling if another change is made in the girl’s living arrangements.

“Baby Girl has now resided with her father for 18 months,” she said. “However difficult it must have been for her to leave Adoptive Couple’s home when she was just over 2 years old,

it will be equally devastating now, if at the age of three and a half, she is again removed from her home and sent to live halfway across the country.”

Megan Lindsey, director of public policy and education for the National Council For Adoption, cheered the court’s decision. “This is a wonderful victory for children and adoption,” she said. “The court chose to prioritize and protect the best interests of children, preserving culture as a priority, but promising a balanced interpretation that allows a child’s broader best interests to be considered.”

Other children’s advocates didn’t like the ruling, however.

“This ruling threatens to undermine the values and practices that have become central to effective child welfare practice, in particular the important role that families and communities play in determining the best interests of children in their care,” said MaryLee Allen, director of child welfare and mental health for the Children’s Defense Fund.

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians, said the court’s decision leaves the ICWA in place, which he called “the most important law to protect Native children and families.”

“While we are pleased the court has upheld ICWA, we’re very disappointed for Dusten, Veronica, and the Brown family that the court has ruled to send the case back to the South Carolina courts on a technicality,” Keel said. “However, the courts in South Carolina have previously affirmed that Dusten Brown is Veronica’s father and that he is a fit parent. We are confident that his parental rights will be upheld, and that Veronica will stay with her family.”

The case is Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, 12-399.

NATIVE *American* TIMES



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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News from the crossroads of Indian Country

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Federal officials approve horse slaughterhouse in New Mexico

JERI CLAUSING
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – Federal officials cleared the way Friday for a return to domestic horse slaughter, granting a southeastern New Mexico company’s application to convert its cattle facility into a horse processing plant.

In approving Valley Meat Co.’s plans to produce horse meat, Department of Agriculture officials also indicated they would grant similar permits to companies in Iowa and Missouri as early as next week.

With the action, the Roswell, N.M., company becomes the first operation in the nation licensed to process horses into meat since Congress effectively banned the practice seven years ago.

But the company’s attorney said on Friday that he remained skeptical about Valley Meat Co.’s chances of opening any time soon, as the USDA must send an inspector to oversee operations and two animal rights groups have threatened lawsuits to block the opening.

“This is very far from over,” attorney Blair Dunn said. “The company is going to plan to begin operating in July. But with the potential lawsuits and the USDA – they have been dragging their feet for a year – so to now believe

they are going to start supplying inspectors, we’re not going to hold our breath.”

The company has been fighting for the permit for than a year, sparking an emotional debate over whether horses are livestock or domestic companions.

The decision comes more than six months after Valley Meat Co. sued the USDA, accusing it of intentionally delaying the process because the Obama administration opposes horse slaughter.

The Justice Department moved Friday to dismiss the case. Dunn said he would fight to keep it open until all issues, including attorneys’ fees, are resolved.

Valley Meat Co. wants to ship horse meat to countries where people cook with it or feed it to animals.

The plant would become the first horse slaughterhouse to operate in the country since Congress banned the practice by eliminating funding for inspections at the plants. Congress reinstated the funding in 2011, but the USDA has been slow in granting permits, citing the need to re-establish an oversight program.

The USDA said it also expects to issue permits next week for Rains Natural Meats in Missouri and Responsible Transportation in Iowa.

“Since Congress has not yet acted

to ban horse slaughter inspection, (the agriculture department) is legally required to issue a grant of inspection today to Valley Meats in Roswell, N.M., for equine slaughter,” USDA spokeswoman Courtney Rowe said.

“The administration has requested Congress to reinstate the ban on horse slaughter. Until Congress acts, the Department must continue to comply with current law.”

The Obama administration’s budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year eliminates funding for inspections of horse slaughterhouses, which would effectively reinstate the ban. And both the House and Senate agriculture committees have endorsed proposals that would cut the funding. But it is unclear when and if an agriculture appropriations bill will pass this year.

A return to domestic horse slaughter has divided horse rescue and animal welfare groups, ranchers, politicians and Indian tribes about what is the most humane way to deal with the country’s horse overpopulation and what rescue groups have said are a rising number of neglected and starving horses as the West deals with persistent drought.

The Humane Society of the United States and Front Range Equine Rescue said they would

follow through on plans to file suit to try to block the resumption of horse slaughter.

“The USDA’s decision to start up domestic horse slaughter, while at the same time asking Congress to defund it, is bizarre and unwarranted,” Jonathan Lovvorn, senior vice president and chief counsel for animal protection litigation at the humane society, said in a statement. “Slaughter plants have a history of polluting their communities and producing horse meat that is tainted with a dangerous cocktail of banned drugs. We intend to hold the Obama administration accountable in federal court for this inhumane, wasteful and illegal decision.”

Proponents of a return to domestic horse slaughter point to a 2011 report from the federal Government Accountability Office that shows horse abuse and abandonment have been increasing since slaughter was banned in 2006, leaving fewer humane options for horse owners who can’t afford to care for or euthanize their animals.

They say it is better to slaughter the animals in humane, federally regulated facilities than have them abandoned to starve across the drought-stricken West or sold at auction houses that then ship them to inhumane facilities in Mexico.

The number of U.S. horses sent to other countries for slaughter has

nearly tripled since 2006, the report says. Many humane groups agree that some of the worst abuse occurs in the slaughter pipeline. Many are pushing for a ban on domestic slaughter and a ban on shipping horses to Mexico and Canada.

Gov. Susana Martinez, a horse lover, said “creating a horse slaughter industry in New Mexico is wrong and I am strongly opposed.”

New Mexico Land Commissioner Ray Powell, a veterinarian, called on local, state and federal leaders to “work together to create solutions and provide sustainable funding to care for or humanely euthanize these unwanted horses. Continuing to ignore the plight of starving horses, creating a new horse slaughter plant, or exporting unwanted horses to Mexico won’t solve this problem.”

The Yakama Nation in Washington state applauded the USDA’s decision. Tribal Council Chairman Harry Smiskin said “we hope that such a plant can also open somewhere in the Pacific Northwest to assist us in dealing with over 12,000 feral horses that are severely damaging our homelands”

In a news release, he said the horses have overgrazed the land, leaving some valleys and hillsides without grass or plant life.

– Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

JEWELL

Continued from Page 1

proud legacy when it comes to upholding our promises,” said Jewell, her voice cracking. “I can’t reverse all of that in a four-year period of time, but I can make important progress.”

She vowed to be an advocate in the federal government for tribes, saying it is part of her job as secretary to help set them up for success for generations. She added President Barack Obama and former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar “opened a new chapter” in relations with Indian Country.

“I will keep that chapter open,” Jewell said. “I will

take it to the next level if I’m allowed to do that with your help.”

Jewell touched on a variety of topics during her address, including the importance of exploiting opportunities to develop both traditional and renewable sources of energy on federal tribal lands. She repeated concerns she raised in her first appearance before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee last month about an “embarrassing” backlog of needed repairs at tribal schools.

“We know education is the opportunity that lifts Indian children from the current, into the future,” Jewell said. “We’ve spent \$2 billion since 2002 on schools, but they still are in poor conditions, many of them.”

She drew applause when she later advocated “culturally appropriate education that you direct.”

“My North Star in supporting you will be promoting tribal self-governance and self-determination, recognizing the inherent right of tribal governments to make their own decisions,” she said. “You know better than any of us do what you need in your tribes and in your communities.”

Jewell’s appearance came a day after Obama announced the establishment of a White House Council on Native American Affairs to promote a healthier relationship among the United States and tribal governments. The leaders of 30 federal departments and agencies

will serve on the council, which is charged with aiding tribes with economic development, transportation, housing and health care.

“My boss in the Oval Office cares deeply about you,” she told the gathering June 27 in explaining how leaders in a variety of Cabinet agencies will work more closely on issues important to tribes.

Arlen Melendez, chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and a former member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, said Jewell’s upbringing in the Pacific Northwest and her connection to the environment struck a chord with tribal leaders, who seemed “very pleased” with what she said.

“I think a lot of the tribes

didn’t really know who she was, but listening to her, I think they can be confident she’s going to be really good for Indian Country,” Melendez said in an interview after the speech.

Jewell told the gathering her family moved to Seattle from England just before she turned 4. Some of her earliest memories included proudly wearing a tribal mask made of cardboard when they would go to Blake Island in Puget Sound “to watch the Indian dancers.”

“The introduction to tribal culture – even though that is sort of a tourist thing, it actually is a very powerful and spiritual thing as well,” she said.

Later, she became attuned to the large population

of homeless people in downtown Seattle – “largely Indians.”

“The contrast between the pride and the history of Native people in Seattle with the reality on the ground was very striking,” she said.

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians and lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, said he agreed that Jewell is well-positioned to build on better relations that began in Obama’s first term.

“We believe that chapter – and that door – is wide open now and will lead to a new level of understanding in this nation-to-nation relationship,” Keel said.

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Property & Records Management Director

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will begin accepting applications for the Property & Records MANAGEMENT Director. The incumbent will work under the supervision of the Executive Director. Will utilize own initiative and experience while following. Federal, State, and Tribal policies. Responsible for all personal property assigned to designated areas In accordance with the provisions of property regulations. The incumbent also maintains insurance policies by processing premium paperwork on a monthly basis. Other duties assigned by the Executive Director. **QUALIFICATION:** Associates degree with (2) yrs. Related experience in property and/or records management. Prefer Bachelor degree in business or related field. Must possess typing skills and be proficient in Microsoft. **REQUIREMENT:** Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver's license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug testing. **APPLY AT:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015. **CLOSING DATE:** July 19, 2013 C.O.B. EOE UP PL -93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION

Bacone College is looking for a qualified, motivated individual who can manage all functions of the Division of Adult Ed programs and supervise all personnel with the division. Bachelors Degree required, Masters Preferred. Send letter of application, resume, salary requirements and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Office of Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General

SALARY: DOE, \$85,000.00-\$95,000.00 range; Benefits Eligible **CLOSING DATE:** July 5, 2013

The Eastern Shoshone Office of Attorney General has an opening for a motivated individual to perform legal services as the Assistant Attorney General for the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, including a spectrum of highly complex, in-depth legal services to routine legal matters pertaining to the Tribe as a governmental entity, its programs and designated representatives.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Required: A licensed attorney with a J.D. from an A.B.A. accredited law school, a Wyoming State license to practice law or the ability to obtain such within one (1) year of hire, and a Wind River Bar license within ninety (90) days of hire, either through exam or waiver. Minimum five (5) years law practice experience with a preference in Tribal government emphasis, or other Tribal-related or federal Indian law experience. **DRUG TESTING REQUIRED.**

Preferred: In-house governmental experience (tribal or non-tribal), and inter-governmental experience encouraged to apply.

For INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, please contact Karen LaCroix at (307) 332-2005. Indian Preference Applicable

BACONE COLLEGE

RECRUITER

A full-time position designed to reach out to the assigned market and express Bacone College's interest in recruiting and retaining students that reflect its mission and heritage. Recruitment will focus on all prospective students interested in attending Bacone College and working as a point of contact with these students throughout matriculation. Position requires extensive travel within Oklahoma and the United States.


NATIVE AMERICAN RECRUITER

A full-time position designed to reach out to the Native American community and express Bacone College's interest in recruiting and retaining students that reflect its cultural heritage. Position requires extensive travel within Oklahoma and the United States.

Candidates should submit resumes to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee, OK 74403 or e-mail to humanresources@bacone.edu

Bacone is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

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#7914 R/FT Epidemiologist
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Interested applicants please apply at www.cherokee.org

Cherokee Nation
Human Resources Department
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 453-5292 or 453-5050

Employment will be contingent upon drug test results. Indian preference is considered.

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Bacone College is looking for a motivated, qualified individual to manage all functions of Admissions and supervise all personnel with the division. Bachelors Degree required. Experience in Higher Education Admissions preferred. Send letter of application, resume, salary requirements and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

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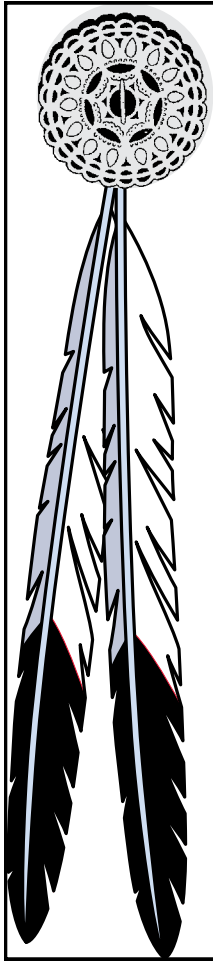
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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci.Phillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY

Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY

Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH JULY 14

Cherokee Women in Art exhibit, Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville. Exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

JULY 2-4

Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration at Carnegie City Park, Carnegie. Gourd dancing, stunning shawls and drumming exhibitions. 6am-11pm. Contact Phil Dupoint, 580-654-2300.

JULY 3 - JULY 28

Inaugural Pani Star Native American Art Show, Berry Building, 657 Harrison, Pawnee, OK .Artist Reception July 3, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m. For More Information Contact: Rebekah Horsechief @ (918) 762-3227 Ext. 22 or Austin Real Rider @ (918) 399-5470

JULY 4

Annual Quapaw Powwow, 4581 South 630 Rd., Quapaw. Info call Everett Bandy 918-542-1853 or ebandy@quapawtribe.com

JULY 4-6

Thunderbird Casino 26th Annual Powwow, Norman. Intertribal dancing only July 4th. All

contestants must dance in Grand Entry and Intertribal dancing in full regalia and number in full display. All day events. Contact Sue Blanchard, 405-312-4621 or Leonard Longhorn, 405-481-0674.

JULY 4-7

Pawnee Indian Veterans 67th Annual Homecoming, Memorial Park in Pawnee, Okla. Run and softball tournament Sat. at 8am. Parade Sat. at Noon. For complete schedule or info call David Echohawk, 918-873-0499 or visit online pawneeindianveteransorg@gmail.com or on Facebook at Pawnee Indian Veterans Organization (Official)

JULY 5-7

Quapaw Tribal Powwow at 5681 S 630 Rd, Quapaw. Celebration includes dancing, contests, vendors and plenty of family fun. 8am-close. Contact Everett Bandy at 918-542-1853 or ebandy@quapawtribe.com.

JULY 6

Mose YellowHorse Co-Ed Softball Tournament at Pawnee Baseball Fields. Double elimination. \$125 entry fee. More info contact Waylon Cotanny, 580-310-4133 waylon.cotanny@chickasaw.net Or Randi Estes rcestes72@yahoo.com

JULY 11-14

Sac & Fox Nation Powwow, Jim Thorpe Memorial Park, 920883 S State Hwy 99, Stroud. Dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, outdoor camping and much more. 8pm-close. Contact Robert Williamson, 918-225-5788 r 918-290-0554.

JULY 13

Choctaw Nation election for Districts 4 and 9 council representatives. Info: Election Board, P. O. Box 278, Durant, OK 74702-0748, or call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2199, 2535, and 2536

JULY 13

NDN Taco Dinner, 11am-3pm at Delaware Community Center, 170 NE Barbara, Bartlesville. Taco with drink, \$7. Fundraiser for Pryor Wellbriety Powwow. Info call 918-698-0583.

JULY 15

It's A Family Day - 11am til 3pm– Education on dementia for all age groups (Children to Elderly), "Faith Based Approach to Alzheimer's" information to all by Jackie Lenzy, "Elders Rock & Roll" created especially for the youth by Lori Medina, Free Picnic Lunch is provided, Cherokee Nation and Area Agency on Aging Caregiver Respite Care & Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information. At Cherokee Elder Care, 1387 W 4th St., Tahlequah, OK. Please RSVP by July 8, 2013 by contacting Katina Dugger at 918-453-5554.

JULY 18-21

Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment at the Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds, 7500 Hwy 177, Red Rock. Includes gourd dancing, a 5K run and contest dancing. Free and open to the public. Event times vary. Contact Heather Payne, 580-723-4466.

JULY 19-21

Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Sultan Park, 129 E Colorado St, Walters. Categories of dance competition will include

gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Contact 580-492-3240.

JULY 26-28

44th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow at 193rd & Javine Hill Road, Skiatook. 6:30pm-close. Contact Donna Phillips, 918-381-7996, dkphillips2002@gmail.com.

JULY 26-28

63rd Annual Indian Hills Powwow at 9300 North Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. 8am-close. Contact Berdina Kodasset, 405-201-1283.

JULY 30

Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4

Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 15-18

Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public. 2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30-31

Eufaula Indian Community Powwow & Homecoming Eastside Ballpark, Eufaula.

Oklahoma tobacco compacts extended

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Tobacco talks for several Oklahoma tribes are heading into overtime.

Compacts for 28 Oklahoma tribes expired Sunday. However, Gov. Mary Fallin’s general counsel Steve Mullins sent letters before the June 30 deadline to tribal leaders proposing



Gov. Mary Fallin

an amendment that adds a 90-day compact extension.

The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Citizen Potawatomi, Comanche, Pawnee, Ponca and Seminole Nations, Ottawa, Quapaw and Tonkawa Tribes, and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town have agreed to the proposed amendment.

Tribes and the state of Oklahoma now have through Sept. 30 to establish new tobacco compacts.

Despite a written request earlier this year from more than 20 tribes to extend all existing tobacco compacts through August 2017, Fallin’s office has maintained that it will only

extend such short-term extensions to tribes still engaged in “good faith” negotiations on their compact’s expiration date.

As of June 28, only five tribes – Kaw, the Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell government of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Apache, Fort Sill Apache and Otoe-Missouria – have signed new compacts, which all took effect Monday. None of the new compacts include most favored nation clauses or border tax rates, which the governor’s office has publicly come out against.

The expiring compacts made lower tax rates available for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Kansas

or Missouri, states which have lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops. Tribal smoke shops outside that radius can sell cigarette packs with either a 52-cent stamp or an 86-cent stamp, depending on the exact terms of the tribe’s compact. Smoke shops without a compact and non-tribal tobacco retailers must sell cigarettes to the public with a \$1.03 stamp.

Eight of Oklahoma’s federally recognized tribes do not have a tobacco compact with the state.

Gov. Fallin’s office did not respond to requests for comment.



MARCY A. GRAY | CHICKASAW NATION

Tres Ring, right, explains the finer details of his rocket to a young Chickasaw student at Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy, conducted in Ada last month.

Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy students fly high

ADA, Okla. – When Chickasaw Tres Ring, of Collierville, Tennessee, decided to spend one-week at Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy he thought he could broaden his horizons.

The 18-year-old had never attended any sort of “science camp” and hoped it would provide an opportunity to explore career and life opportunities.

“I decided to apply for CNASA because I thought it may help me decide a college major, he said while taking a break launching rockets at the academy’s culmination Friday, June 14.

Tres was right.

Tres was one of 38 students who participated in the 11th annual space and aviation academy. Students, ages 10-18, worked on several “hands-on” activities throughout the week including designing airplane wings, building rockets, and maneuvering quad copters.

While in the midst of these hands-on activities, students learn the basics of aerodynamics and some math and physics.

Sparking an interest in space and aviation careers while exploring different opportunities is an objective of CNASA, Chickasaw Nation Education Executive Officer Danny Wells said.

“CNASA is important – it creates an interest in science, technology and math as a career. We introduce students to careers in aviation, space and flight.”

Tres learned about a new possible vocation: air traffic controller.

“We learned about air traffic controllers - I didn’t even know what that was before this academy. CNASA is a great way to learn about different career fields.”

When asked if he learned any concepts at CNASA he can use in the future he chuckled, “I learned how a wing works, how an airplane flies.”

Tres plans to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy and Vanderbilt University after high school graduation.

Learning Through Fun Hands-on activities, including building and testing rockets, can lead to problem solving.

The last day of CNASA, students took turn testing rockets they built from a kit.

Some soared very high, some made modest streaks across the sky and some didn’t fly at all.

Students would diagnose any problems, tweak the rocket and try to fly it again.

“It’s learning process throughout, and if it doesn’t work, you have to try something new,” said Mr. Wells.

“Fun, hands-on activities create an interest in science can encourage students to pursue an engineering degree.”

CNASA also offered plenty of thrills, especially when the students flew in an aircraft at Tulsa’s Riverside Airport. A few students were even able to pilot the plane, including Andrea Underwood, 11, of Ada.

“The pilot let us fly the plane and it was really cool.”

Mr. Wells said he hopes students return to school next term with a new view on school subjects which may not have interested them prior to attending the academy.

About CNASA

Open to Chickasaw students, CNASA is packed with fun and educational activities which incorporate science and math into the curriculum.

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said the academy was developed to encourage young people to consider careers in science, mathematics and technology.

“Some students who attended CNASA in the past are now pursuing education and careers in science and technology fields. We believe this academy, along with FIRST robotics and other programs, is helping students expand their horizons,” said Gov. Anoatubby.

Students from all around the state and Nation attend the camp.

The CNASA program was established in 2003 and takes place each June. The academy is open to Chickasaw students grades five through 12.

For more information about CNASA, call (580) 421-7711 or visit www.Chickasaw.net.

Choctaw Days’ 3rd installment at US Capitol

BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

DURANT, Okla. – The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) hosted its third installment of Choctaw Days June 20 and 21 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C. The event is one of the CNO’s largest exhibitions of culture and tradition, aimed to educate and immerse patrons in what it truly means to be Choctaw.

“We are always striving to keep our culture alive and strong. We love to share it near and we love to share it far, meeting new Choctaw faces all along the way,” stated Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

During this time, members of CNO occupied the museum’s large atrium, the Potomac Room, and numerous staples of Choctaw culture were showcased. Aspects of the Choctaw way of life included stickball, social dances, storytelling, beadwork and ceremonies. Each day consisted of three presentations of time-honored traditions with time to meet cultural experts filling the moments between.

“We are always glad to have the Choctaws in town,” said Kevin Gover, director of NMAI, as he addressed the audience. He went on to mention that Choctaw Days was one of the highlights of the museum during the year. Everyone in the booth is so engaging and happy, which creates a pleasant atmosphere and encourages guests to learn more, said Gover.

“When we heard Choctaw Days was going on, we wanted to make sure we made it out,” stated Brad Rauh from Clemson, S.C., who was in town with his family for a visit. Patrons of the museum showed a pleasurable reception to the event, everyone enjoying the various exhibitions of Choctaw culture.

Each morning the Choctaw princesses initiated the day’s activities

by presenting the Lord’s Prayer in sign language, began the midday production with the Four- Directions ceremony, and concluded the day with a special presentation.

Bead-working classes presented by CNO’s Office of Historic Preservation were offered throughout both days on the third floor of the building. Guests

Stickball was a favorite of the youth in the crowd. Students from various educational groups would overtake the floor following the presentation to try their hand at the ancient sport, which is responsible for today’s lacrosse. Billy Eagle Road III and Jared “Pinti” Tom would give demonstrations, sharing stories of their games with Tvshka



LISA REED | CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Debbie Damron explains about Choctaw baskets to a fascinated little visitor.

were taught to bead bracelets and turtles, which were chosen because of their significance to the tribe.

“It is very intricate,” stated Rebecca Gelfond who is from Maryland, but has family in the Choctaw Nation boundaries. Gelfond’s children, Max and Julia, accompanied her in learning beadwork and seemed to have a knack for the art. “Given Julia’s fascination and success, I suspect we will be [beading again],” she laughed.

Social dances are an integral part to all Choctaw cultural gatherings and Choctaw Day was no different. Dancers energized the room with their quick steps and bright colors, pulling in members of the audience for impromptu appearances in the Raccoon, Stealing Partners and Snake Dances. “It’s a different, more organic rhythm,” stated Kandall Masada, a ballet dancer from Texas.

Homma, CNO’s official tribal stickball team. “I was totally fascinated by stickball,” exclaimed Kelly McHugle.

Special presentations also graced the floor of the Potomac, including the lively stories of Tim Tingle. An award-winning author, Tingle has the ability to get the crowd energized and active through his stories, which often include a combination of Choctaw lore and history. Tingle told guests of the NMAI the story of how rabbit lost his tail, as well as the saga of Bigfoot and the Choctaw princess.

Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray, beadwork artist and chanter Brad Joe, and Broadway actor Aaron Umsted lent the audience their voices for solo performances at various times during the event. Each performer owned their own sound, but each sang completely in the Choctaw language, creating a totally Choctaw experience.

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- Inside this issue:
- Tough GOP choices on Voting Rights Act
 - Review: ‘Lone Ranger’ is a train wreck
 - Otoe Encampment July 18-21



NATIVE TIMES

Native leader slams Supreme Court ruling on Voting Rights Act



Thomas Shortbull, a leader in South Dakota’s movement for fair voting since the 1970s, says the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling turns back the clock on voting rights more than 100 years. Shortbull adds that Chief Justice John Roberts should have recused himself from the case because Roberts was arguing against the act 20 to 30 years ago.

CHRISTINA ROSE
Native Sun News

PINE RIDGE, S.D. – A U.S. Supreme Court decision that removed Section 4 from the Voting Rights Act completely ignored the voting rights of American Indians according to several dissenters.

Section 4 included a formula for deciding which states would be subject to pre-clearance before any changes could be made to voting. Such changes were often used to cause discrimination in voting practices.

In 1980, South Dakota was included in the group of 17 states required to submit any voting changes for pre-clearance through the US Department of Justice. With last week’s ruling, Indian country now faces challenging times ahead.

Although the Supreme Court justices stated that discrimination in voting was a thing of the distant past, South Dakota is currently engaged in at least two lawsuits that are based in voting discrimination.

Thomas Short Bull, a leader in South Dakota’s movement for fair voting since the 1970s, said the changes made by the Supreme Court have turned the clock back more than 100 years. “This is what the Civil War was fought for,” Short Bull said. “This is about state’s rights, and basically, through Justice Roberts’ clear bias, this is moving us back to where minorities fought tooth and nail to vote in this country.”

According to Short Bull, Justice John Roberts, who read the court’s decision, should have recused himself as a biased party. Short Bull said, “John Roberts was arguing to dismantle the Voting Rights Act maybe 20 to 30 years ago, while he was at the Department of Justice; and he is the one who wrote this opinion.”

Short Bull was among South Dakota leaders in the Task Force on Indian-State Government Relations, and has been called several times as an expert witness in important court cases, notably Bone Shirt v. Hazeltine.

While on the Task Force, Short Bull examined the relationships between the state and tribes, and in 1974, he helped create a report that exposed gerrymandering in the Southwestern area of South Dakota. That report recommended combining the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations, and placing Shannon and Todd Counties into one legislative district instead of being divided into three voting districts.

Because of discriminatory voting practices in those counties at that time, South Dakota was placed among the states that required pre-clearance. “This recent change in the Voting Rights Act applies to Indian country, especially in South Dakota, and not just in Shannon and Todd County. There have been other court actions in Martin and Wagner,” Short Bull said.

Among the lengthy decision and opinions of the Supreme Court, there was no mention of Indian Country. The decision referred solely to the original problems of Southern states that sought to keep African-Americans from voting.

See **VOTE** on Page 2

Cherokee elections challenged

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Two lawsuits challenging the outcome of the 2013 Cherokee Nation Tribal Council election were filed Monday afternoon with the tribe’s Supreme Court.

Citing voting irregularities, current council member Meredith Frailey of Locust Grove, Okla., is one of the two candidates appealing the results of the June 22 midterm election. According



Meredith Frailey

to unofficial results, Frailey finished second to Janees Taylor by 27 votes in a three-woman race.

Last year, the Cherokee



Robin Mayes

Tribal Council approved a new map with 15 single representative districts. The council had previously used a five-district map with three

representatives per district. The district in question, No. 15, includes portions of southern Rogers and Mayes counties. In her filing, Frailey alleges that at least two voters who live outside the district were allowed to vote in the District 15 race and another 20 Cherokee citizens whose addresses were within the district’s boundaries were turned away.

“By adjusting the number of votes that should have been cast in District 15 to account

See **CHEROKEE** on Page 3

WATER FIGHT



COURTESY PHOTO

The Choctaw and Chickasaw nations are battling the Oklahoma government over Sardis Lake in southeastern Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City Water Utility Trust want a water-use permit to withdraw water from the reservoir, which is located within the historic territories of each of the tribes.

Tribes, state work to solve water rights issues

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – After years of legal wrangling, the state of Oklahoma successfully blocked a legal challenge by a Texas water district that claimed it had a right under a 30-year-old compact to cross the Red River and take water from Oklahoma to serve the fast-growing Fort Worth area.

But the state’s victory did not end the court fight over water rights in Oklahoma. The state and a pair of Oklahoma-based tribes are still squabbling in federal court over whether the tribes have a legal right

to water in their historic territories in southeastern Oklahoma.

The lawsuit filed by the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in August 2011 and a related water-rights lawsuit filed by the state six months later have been on hold for more than a year in the hope the state and the tribes can settle their differences through negotiation and avoid years of litigation. While the two sides continue to talk, no one knows when – or if – a resolution will be reached.

“The process is working,” said Michael Burrage, attorney for the tribes. He said negotiators have met several times since the lawsuits were stayed and another

meeting is scheduled July 18-19 in Oklahoma City.

A mediator appointed to the case in December 2011, Duke University law professor Francis E. McGovern, has since left the negotiations. Burrage said McGovern “helped us reach a certain point” and was no longer needed.

“At this stage in the process, we think we can work well with each other,” Burrage said. He said he was prohibited from discussing details of the closed negotiations.

The presiding judge in the water rights cases. U.S. District Judge Lee

See **WATER** on Page 4

Osage Nation attorney general investigating Chief Red Eagle

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – The Osage Nation’s Attorney General’s Office announced another investigation into Chief John Red Eagle’s office on Wednesday.

At issue is a contract for an appointee of Red Eagle’s, Paul Allen, and whether his duties directly benefit the Osage Nation.

Allen, who was appointed in 2010, works on Chief Red Eagle’s personal website, www.johnredeagle.com. The site and domain name are not registered to the tribe, but the Osage Nation’s website does have a link to it on the administrator’s page.

As of Friday afternoon, Johnredeagle.com features the chief’s biography, three photo albums, blog posts about some of the legislative action taken in 2011 and

links to the Osage Nation’s website and Indian Health Services’ home page.

The website was also used by Red Eagle’s campaign when he ran for chief in 2010 and was included on promotional materials distributed by his campaign team. A photo album from the 2010 campaign is still up on the site.

The investigation was launched after a Barnsdall weekly newspaper, The

Bigheart Times, obtained and published the executive branch’s check register for Jan. 1 through April 15 of this year.

According to the check registry, Allen was paid \$1,153.85 eight times with tribal funds from the executive branch’s budget on the same schedule as the tribe’s pay periods.

If the check amounts and schedule continued over a year, the total would equal

\$30,000.10, 10 cents over the cap included in his contract.

The new investigation comes less than a week after a contract at the heart of a separate civil lawsuit was made available to the public.

On June 26, Red Eagle’s attorney, Kirke Kickingbird, included a copy of pipeline consultant Rod Hartness’ contract in his response to the Osage News’ civil complaint for violating the tribe’s Open Records Act.



Chief John Red Eagle

The Osage News filed a written request for the contract on Jan. 31. As per the tribe’s Open Records

See **INVESTIGATION** on Page 5

GOP has tough choices on Voting Rights Act

BILL BARROW
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) – When the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights act last week, it handed Republicans tough questions with no easy answers over how, and where, to attract voters even GOP leaders say the party needs to stay nationally competitive.

The decision caught Republicans between newfound state autonomy that conservatives covet and the law’s popularity among minority, young and poor voters who tend to align with Democrats. It’s those voters that Republicans are eyeing to expand and invigorate the GOP’s core of older, white Americans.

National GOP Chairman Reince Priebus began that effort well before the court’s decision by promising, among other initiatives, to hire non-white party activists to engage directly with black and Latino voters. Yet state and national Republicans reacted to the Voting Rights Act decision with a flurry of activity and comments that may not fit neatly into the national party’s vision.

Congressional leaders must decide whether to try to rewrite the provision the court struck, but it’s not clear how such an effort would fare in the Democratic-led Senate and the GOP-controlled House. And at the state level, elected Republicans are enacting tighter voting restrictions that Democrats blast as harmful to their traditional base of supporters and groups the Republicans say they want to attract.

States like North Carolina and Virginia provide apt examples of the potential fallout. An influx of non-whites have turned those Republican strongholds into battlegrounds in the last two presidential elections, and minority voters helped President Barack Obama win both states in 2008 and Virginia again in 2012. Nationally, Republican Mitt Romney lost among African-Americans by about 85 percentage points and Latinos by about 44 percentage points, margins that virtually ensure a Democratic victory.

Yet presidential math doesn’t necessarily motivate Republicans who control statehouses and congressional districts in states most affected by the Voting Rights Act. Core GOP supporters in the region react favorably to voter identification laws and broad-based critiques of federal authority.

Against that backdrop, Southern Republicans celebrated Chief Justice John Roberts’ opinion that effectively frees all or parts of 15 states with a history of racial



Indian Tribal Council of Arizona leaders in 2004 work to get out the Native American vote. Some civil rights leaders believe that the Native vote, along with other minority voting numbers, could be adversely affected by the recent Supreme Court ruling on the Voting Rights Act.

discrimination from having to get advanced federal approval for any election procedure.

The so-called “preclearance” provision anchored the law that Congress renewed four times since its 1965 passage as the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement for black Americans. The law contains an “opt-out” provision that allowed a jurisdiction to ask a federal court for release from preclearance if it has established a record of non-discrimination. Roberts said that process – never used successfully by an entire state – wasn’t enough.

“The court recognized that states can fairly design our own (district) maps and run our own elections without the federal government,” Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said in a statement.

Citizens can still sue to overturn state laws, but they’ll likely have to prove discrimination after the fact, rather than local authorities having to convince federal officials in advance that a law wouldn’t discriminate.

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a Republican running for governor, said: “I do not believe we have the institutional bigotry like we had before.”

GOP officials in Texas and Mississippi promised within hours of the decision to enforce new laws requiring voters to show identification at polls. The U.S. Justice Department’s civil rights lawyers had frozen the Mississippi law while they considered effects on minority voters, while a panel of federal judges in Washington blocked the Texas law because of its potential to harm low-income and minority voters. North Carolina Republicans said they’d enact their own voter identification law. Texas Gov. Rick

Perry signed new congressional district maps – tilted to Republican advantage – that federal authorities would have had to review.

But in Washington, Republicans like House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia embraced the nuances of Roberts’ ruling. The court didn’t actually strike down preclearance, instead tossing rules that determined which jurisdictions got oversight. Congress is free to rewrite those parameters and revive advance review, Roberts wrote.

“I’m hopeful Congress will put politics aside,” Cantor said, “and find a responsible path forward that ensures that the sacred obligation of voting in this country remains protected.”

The white Republican recalled his recent trip to Alabama with black Democratic Rep. John Lewis on the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. Lewis, an Atlanta Democrat, was beaten repeatedly as a young civil rights advocate during the 1960s. The commemoration, Cantor said, was “a profound experience.”

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who helped lead the law’s latest reauthorization when the GOP ran Congress in 2006, said the court “disappointed” him. Lingering discrimination, he said, compels Congress to update the act, “especially for minorities.”

“There’s no easy answer” for the GOP, said Henry Barbour, a high-profile member of the Republican National Committee. The Mississippi native conceded his personal views demonstrate the complications.

Barbour helped write the national party’s post-election analysis calling for better outreach to minorities and urged fellow Republicans that “our tone is important, on

this and any other issue.” But he’s clear in his support for the decision and what it means in Mississippi.

Blatantly racist laws like poll taxes and literacy tests once made preclearance necessary, Barbour said. “But when you have to go hat-in-hand to Washington every time you want to move a polling place,” then it’s evolved into “federal harassment that’s gone on way too long,” he added.

Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia said Congress is capable of writing a new national formula based on the latest voter registration and turnout data “if everyone will sit back and take a deep breath.”

Barbour disputed that forecast, but not because of opposition from Southerners. Rather, he said, “People in these other states don’t want this scrutiny coming to them.”

That frustration reflects part of the 2006 renewal debate in Congress. Despite fewer than three dozen dissenting votes, some Southern members said the extra scrutiny should apply nationwide or not at all.

Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, who supported ending preclearance, said Republicans should emphasize parts of the act still in use. Besides a general discrimination ban, the feds can invoke preclearance for jurisdictions with new patterns of mistreating minorities. That “opt-in” rule has affected Arkansas, New Mexico and some cities and counties.

Others in the GOP say election results form a defense. Katon Dawson, a former South Carolina party chairman, noted that Gov. Nikki Haley, of Indian descent, appointed then-Rep. Tim Scott as the modern South’s first black U.S. senator. He’ll seek a full term next year.

“We’re walking the walk,” Dawson said. Of course, Southern states also produced the widest margins among white voters in favor of Mitt Romney and John McCain in their losses to Obama.

Chris LaCivita, a Republican consultant in Virginia, offered one more potential comfort for Republicans: The relationship between Democrats and whites. Republicans need more minority votes in presidential years, but Democrats need more white Southerners if they want to regain control of Congress or many statehouses.

“Democrats might want to think long and hard about making a racially based argument,” LaCivita said, “considering voters they need don’t like having to pay for the sins of their fathers.”

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

Within the decision is a chart that shows that Blacks are now voting in some of the pre-clearance Southern counties at higher rates than Whites. “They say it is primarily geared towards the Southern states, but the problem has also been in South Dakota. I have been in a ring-side seat with all of these actions. It goes back to my time in the task force,” Short Bull said.

Until now, if the DOJ was notified of gerrymandering on the basis of race, it could step in. Short Bull said, “And that’s what they did in 1980, the Department of Justice told the S.D. Legislature they would not approve their entire apportionment plan unless they created this new district.” He said the change created a district that was 83 percent Indian.

Attorney Steven Sandven of Sioux Falls also reviewed the Supreme Court document and said he found the wording in the decision ironic. Regarding the formula for determining whether a state needed to go through pre-clearance, Sandven said the justices called it antiquated, “and that we don’t need to do pre-clearance anymore.”

Sandven said it’s ironic that he and the legal team of Henson Efron Indian Law have been fighting to establish early voting



A poster to help increase Native American voting numbers used by THINKPROGRESS.ORG.

locations on reservations in both Montana and South Dakota. According to the firm, in 2012, South Dakota agreed to give Oglala Sioux citizens the same access to early voting as other counties, but did not agree to make the change permanent. Currently, the firm has two Section 2 claims pending in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court did not take Section 2 into consideration. Sandven has been working in Montana on voting early, voting late, and having the satellite polls on the reservation.

In October, Sandven argued before the 9th Circuit Court that Indians living on reservations lacked the access

to nearby voting, while those living in cities could access more convenient times and places. The court ruled against Sandven, saying the state did not have to provide satellite polling areas, because many people from the reservations were able to get to the polls.

While Montana did not originally object to satellite polls, Sandven said that local election officials “either voted to deny the requests outright, or delayed taking a vote or any other action on the requests, which had the effect of a denial.” He realized the only answer was going to be to sue the state.

The current active court cases in South Dakota

reflect the same disregard for Indian voters. “People were having to drive for early voting and early registration from anywhere in Shannon County to Hot Springs.”

Sandven called the Supreme Court decision “ridiculous.” “It makes the suggestion that we don’t have any of the racial disparities or voting rights problems, so we don’t need pre-clearance from the DOJ. Why then are we having to do these Section 2 claims? State officials aren’t allowing reservation satellite locations where Indian people can go and cast their vote on the reservation. You say section 5 isn’t quite as necessary anymore but at the same time we are actively litigating Section 2 cases because of voting disparity,” Sandven said.

While Section 2 could challenge voting discrimination, the 17 states formerly under pre-clearance are no longer immediately accountable. In order to enforce Section 2, lawsuits must be filed.

“It’s real expensive to file these Section 2 cases. They take a lot of time. Now the local and county officials can do election changes shortly before the election. You have to get a case together, get a hearing before the judge, and it takes time. If someone makes a change to an election rule two weeks before the election, a Section 2 case isn’t always a viable option. That’s what was really great about Sec 5; before any voting change occurred, before an



Two Native American women tend to a Native Vote booth in an effort to boost Native American voting numbers.

official did anything, they had to notify the DOJ and go through their scrutiny,” Sandven said.

David Olsen, who joined Sandven on the case before the 9th Circuit, said, “If a local official wants to move polling places, change hours or restrict hours, they can now do that without any input from the federal government. The only way that can come into effect now is if Congress establishes it. They would have to re-authorize it with new data not historic data.” Section 2 makes it unlawful to deny anyone voting. The impact, without Sections 4 and 5, there are going to be substantially more lawsuits “and people cannot afford it,” Olsen said. “That’s going to be a hardship to the tribes. As they try to fight all of these things, there are going to be an inordinate amount

of cases to file, and do they resources to file them?”

The Supreme Court opinion against pre-clearance is based almost entirely on discrimination in the Old South Confederacy, Olsen said. “There were amicus briefs submitted by Indian country, but they weren’t really considered by the court. They don’t show up anywhere in the opinion because the situation is entirely different.”

“It’s just a huge loss to minorities, and it is an indicator of what’s to come,” Short Bull said. “The demographics of this country are changing, and this country was not created for all people, but for the elite. As the demographics change, you are going to have more minorities and persons of color in Congress so the elite are going to lose control of this country and they are going to fight this tooth and nail.”



Johnny Depp, left, and Armie Hammer, right, respectively portray Tonto and the Lone Ranger in Walt Disney’s “The Lone Ranger,” which is open in theaters nationwide.

Review: ‘The Lone Ranger’ is a train wreck

JAKE COYLE
AP Entertainment Writer

There’s a limit, it turns out, to how much Johnny Depp and a bucket of makeup can accomplish.

In “The Lone Ranger,” Gore Verbinski’s flamboyant re-imagination of the hokey long-running radio show and ‘50s cowboy TV series, Depp eagerly attempts to recreate the extravagant magic of his similarly farcical Jack Sparrow of Verbinski’s “Pirates of the Caribbean.”

With cracked white and black streaks down his face and a dead crow atop his head, Depp’s Tonto (whose look makeup artist Joel Harlow took from the Kirby Sattler painting “I Am Crow”) appears more witch doctor than warrior. One would think that a so-costumed Depp careening through the Old West with Buster Keaton aplomb would make “The Lone Ranger,” at worst, entertaining.

But Verbinski’s film, stretching hard to both reinvent an out-of-date brand and breathe new life in the Western with a desperate onslaught of bloated set pieces, is a poor locomotive for Depp’s eccentric theatrics. For 2 1/2 hours, the Jerry Bruckheimer-produced

“Lone Ranger” inflates, subverts and distorts the conventions of the Western until, in an interminable climax, the big-budget spectacle finally, exhaustingly collapses in a scrap heap of train wreckage.

“The Long Ranger” is, alas, a runaway train. A filmmaker of great excess, Verbinski’s ricocheting whimsy here runs off the rails. Flashback-heavy plot mechanics, occasionally grim violence (bullets land in bodies with the loudest of thwacks, a heart gets eaten) and surrealistic comedy add up to a confused tone that seems uncertain exactly how to position Depp’s Tonto in the movie, to say nothing of Armie Hammer’s wayward Lone Ranger.

The film begins with an elderly, leathery Tonto (also Depp, nearly unrecognizable) at a 1933 San Francisco fair where, under a sign labeled “noble savage,” the old Native American regales a young, masked Lone Ranger fan (Mason Cook) about his adventures with John Reid (Hammer).

Previously the sidekick, Tonto plays the starring role in the story, narrating a tall tale of his coming together with Reid, a district attorney who arrives in the frontier town of Colby, Texas, with high ideals of justice and a copy of John Locke’s

“Treatise on Government” under his arm.

The lawman is made a Texas Ranger when the criminal Butch Cavendish (William Fichtner, ashen and sinister) escapes. The pursuit takes on urgency when Cavendish massacres the rest of the Rangers (including Reid’s brother, played by James Badge Dale), leaving Reid and Tonto to navigate a familiar mid-19th century Old West – the coming railroad, mining development and Indian warfare – with familiar types like the intrepid tycoon Latham Cole (Tom Wilkinson) and a one-legged madam (Helena Bonham Carter).

Stepping into Clayton Moore’s boots, the tall, baritone Hammer never looks at ease. While he exudes the Lone Ranger’s earnest wholesomeness, he’s understandably an uncertain straight man alongside Depp’s slapstick. Having to wear a white Stetson and mask in his first starring role feels like yet another humiliation for the Winklevoss twins Hammer memorably played in “The Social Network.”

The most laudable aspect of “The Lone Ranger” is that it attempts to dispel and mock Hollywood’s past Native American ills. Depp, who has claimed he has some Cherokee ancestry, delights in upending false

images of Indian mysticism, all the while tossing bird seed to the dead crow on his head.

But “The Lone Ranger,” which was made with much of the “Pirates” team including screenwriters Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, along with “Revolutionary Road” adapter Justin Haythe, can only be filed alongside “Cowboys and Aliens” and “Wild, Wild West” as ornate films that are so nervous about the modern appeal of the Western that they ruin it by impulsively overstuffing it. The Coen brothers’ “True Grit” and the 2007 remake of “3:10 to Yuma” better understood the genre’s inherent terseness.

When Verbinski was last directing and Depp was a cartoon lizard, they crafted a far better Western in “Rango.”

“The Lone Ranger,” a Walt Disney release, is rated PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence, and some suggestive material. Running time: 149 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definition for PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

CHEROKEE

Continued from Page 1

for those irregularities, the total votes cast by District 15 candidates is 588 votes,” wrote Frailey’s attorney, former Principal Chief Chad Smith. “For a candidate to be elected by a majority, she must have received 295 votes, which no candidate in District 15 did in the primary election.”

Under the tribe’s election code, if no one candidate in a race receives more than 50 percent of the votes cast, the top two finishers advance to a run-off election. Frailey is requesting the June election results be invalidated due to the lack of mathematical certainty and that she be allowed to

participate in a run-off election with Taylor.

Originally scheduled for 9 a.m. July 5, oral arguments for Frailey’s appeal are now set for 10 a.m. Wednesday. Her request for an expedited hearing was denied.

Robin Mayes, who finished fourth among six candidates for an-large council seat, also filed a lawsuit Monday.

Earlier this year, Mayes filed petitions with the Northern District of Oklahoma’s federal court in Tulsa, Okla., and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to try to block the election from happening or allow him to intervene in the Cherokee Nation’s long-pending lawsuit over the citizenship eligibility of Freedmen descendants.

The appeal from the Denton, Texas, resident seeks to have the entire election invalidated

because of the roughly 5,000 pending citizenship applications from Freedmen descendants. While federal litigation continues, the Cherokee Nation has not processed citizenship applications from Freedmen descendants who do not have at least one ancestor listed as Cherokee, Cherokee-Delaware or Cherokee-Shawnee on the Dawes Rolls.

His suit also names the tribe’s registration department and attorney general, Todd Hembree, as defendants on the grounds that they are “restricting a certain class...from registering for CNO (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) membership and voting in said election while allowing just a few hundred of the same class of Cherokee citizen to vote and participate in full citizenship benefits.”

Oral arguments were originally scheduled for Friday, but have been delayed until Wednesday.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Sioux tribes plan large-scale wind energy project

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – A group of Sioux tribes in South Dakota are hoping to pump some much-needed revenue into their economies with an ambitious wind project, but some wind industry experts question whether the tribes understand the hurdles they face with such a large-scale development.

Leaders from six Sioux tribes announced plans at last month's Clinton Global Initiative to develop a renewable energy project that would generate 1 to 2 gigawatts of power annually. Funding for the up to \$3 billion project would come from the sale of bonds by a new multi-tribal power authority as well as donations to a website.

"It gives Native tribes who aren't in populace areas and don't have casino revenue

a chance to earn some real money that can then be used to reinvest into the community to diversify the economic base that exists," Clinton said at the event. The Sioux tribes are located in some of the poorest areas in the country.

But wind energy experts said the tribes face many obstacles in making the project a reality.

"When I see plans for a thousand megawatts, I have to give a chuckle," said Steve Wegman, an analyst for the South Dakota Renewable Energy Association, who noted that the project is similar to one proposed years ago. "The goal is good, but it's going to take them a long time to get there."

One of the biggest obstacles is simply what to do with so much energy in a state that doesn't demand a lot. Wind energy demand in South Dakota sits at less than 800 megawatts currently.

Wegman said. Another 100 will be put on line in the next year. "After that it's going to be slow going," he said.

Ron Rebenitsch, executive director of the South Dakota Wind Energy Association, said all wind developers face three challenges: finding a buyer for the energy, transmitting it and following the environmental and regulatory requirements.

Since South Dakota is a small state that doesn't require a lot of power, the multi-tribal power authority will need to look east to places such as Minneapolis and Chicago, Rebenitsch said. But then the challenge becomes getting it to those locations. New wind generation requires new lines, and a gigawatt or more would require several major lines, which cost about \$1 million per mile and take up to a year and a half to build.

The tribes recognize that there isn't much demand

locally, which is why they're hoping to sell it to cities such as Anaheim, Calif., or Oklahoma City and connect with a company that already has a transmission system in place, said Paul Valandra, an economic development adviser with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

He said building the wind project is in the national interest and is "a little bit of social justice" for the tribes, who have felt wronged by the U.S. government in the past. "We're going slow, but we want to do a first-class job on this project," he said.

One advantage the tribes could have over others is building the turbines on reservation land, which may not require gaining approval from individual landowners, Rebenitsch said.

"The tribe have some very good areas...If they can do it all on tribal lands, they can probably move forward in that area," he said.



Leaders from six Sioux tribes plan to develop a renewable energy project that would generate 1 to 2 gigawatts of power annually. COURTESY PHOTO

Appeals court upholds conviction in New Mexico swastika case

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) – A federal appeals court has upheld the hate crime conviction of a New Mexico man who participated in branding a swastika on the arm of a Navajo man with mental disabilities.

The ruling in the case of William Hatch was filed this week by a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Hatch was part of a trio that lured Vincent Kee from a McDonald's in Farmington

to an apartment where they used a metal coat hanger to burn the swastika onto Kee's arm.

The Daily Times reports that Hatch's lawyer argued unsuccessfully that adding federal hate crime charges on top of state charges undermined state sovereignty by granting the government unbridled and unneeded discretion.

The court rejected that argument and upheld Hatch's conspiracy conviction.

Man admits illegal sale of eagle feathers

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – A 32-year-old Oklahoma man has admitted to illegally offering to sell eagle and hawk feathers to an undercover agent.

Brian K. Stoner of Ponca City, Okla., pleaded guilty Monday to two misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act for selling feathers from migratory birds protected by federal law. His sentencing is set for Oct. 7.

Prosecutors contend Stoner was at a Lawrence home in 2009 where he met with an undercover agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Stoner admitted in his plea deal he tried to sell eagle parts, including a tail feather fan.

He also admitted offering to sell the undercover agent a dress bustle made of hawk feathers.

INVESTIGATION

Continued from Page 1

Act, Red Eagle's office had 10 business days to provide the contract, request additional time or explain in writing why the request could not be fulfilled.

Since Red Eagle's office did not respond within 35 business days, the Open Records Act allows for the request in tribal court.

In his response, which asks that the suit be declared moot, Red Eagle admits that his office did not provide a timely response to the records request, but denies that it was intentional or in bad faith.

With the contract now available, the Osage News' editorial board voted unanimously Tuesday during an emergency meeting to instruct the newspaper's attorney, Stephen Lee, to draft a letter requesting Red Eagle's office to pay for the Osage News' court costs and attorney fees.

If the request is denied, then the newspaper will proceed with the civil lawsuit, with a hearing scheduled for Thursday at 10 a.m.

Potential penalties include a fine of up to \$5,000, plus attorney's fees.

The newspaper was originally offered a copy of the contract on June 21, but only if it would drop the litigation first, an offer that was declined.

"While the Osage News is pleased Chief Red Eagle finally released the Rod Hartness contract, the Osage News still has a duty to uphold its integrity and follow through with the law," Osage News editor Shannon Shaw Duty said. "We are still asking the Osage Nation court to hold Chief Red Eagle accountable for violating the Open Records Act."

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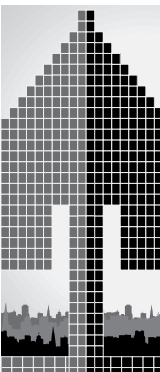
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Transportation Director

Re-Advertisement--The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Transportation department will begin accepting applications for Transportation Director. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall administration of the Tribal Transportation Program grant and all applicable laws. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Preferred-Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related engineering field or Masters Degree in Civil Engineering or Registered Professional Engineer. Minimum-Bachelors Degree, three (3) years experience managing the design, construction, or maintenance of a transportation system. Two(2) years supervisory experience of at least five(5) full time employees. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a Valid Oklahoma Drivers License. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and Drug Testing. Salary range \$25.00 ph to \$ 38.00 ph. **APPLY AT:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015 or call for an application at (580)654-2300 extension 356/360. **CLOSING DATE:** July 24, 2013 C.O.B. EOE UP PL-93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

Finance Officer

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting application for Finance Officer. The Finance Officer is responsible for directing all of the activities of the Finance Department. This position requires considerable administrative and professional skills in the areas of tribal/governmental accounting and finance. **QUALIFICATIONS:** A Bachelors' degree with a major in accounting or finance and the completion of thirty (30) semester hours of accounting at the college level: or combination of training and experience in tribal/governmental accounting of seven yrs. or more and supervisory experience. **REQUIREMENTS:** A knowledge about and skill with computerized accounting systems that normally have at least five users such as Great Plains, Sage MIPS, or another similar sized computerized accounting system. Must submit to and pass a background check and drug testing. Must have a valid Oklahoma driver's license. **Apply At:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department P.O. Box 369 Carnegie, Ok 73015 **CLOSING DATE** July 30, 2013 C.O.B EOE UP PL -93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

Recycling Associate

Moderate to heavy physical labor involving the recycling of electronics. Ability to work efficiently with tools and hands, be able to learn & recognize items quickly is a must. Hard working, flexible person with a great attitude and a willingness to work in a team environment is desired. Pay is between \$9-\$12/HR depending on working experience. Knowledge of metals is helpful but not required. Must pass background test. Steel Toe Boots Required **Apply at** Natural Evolution, Inc. 5701 East 13th St. Tulsa

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is accepting online applications for the full-time, regular status positions of Administrative Affairs Division Director and Planning and Tribal Development Division Director. For complete job descriptions, application deadlines, and online application, please visit our website at <http://www.pawneenation.org>.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is recruiting for the position of Attorney General. For a complete job description; please visit the Pawnee Nation website at www.pawneenation.org. To apply, submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Marshall Gover, President Pawnee Nation Business Council, PO Box 470, Pawnee, OK 74058. Applications may be e-mailed to vwills@pawneenation.org. For questions regarding the position; please call Vi Wills, Executive Administrative Assistant at (918) 762-3621. The deadline to apply is 5 pm on Friday, July 12, 2013.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS

Bacone College seeks applications for the position of ADJUNCT instructors for the following Divisions:

Division of Arts and Science: Mass Communications. Minimum qualifications include a Master's degree with higher education teaching experience in the related field.

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Division of General Studies: English Composition, and Introduction to Christianity. Minimum qualifications include a Master's degree with higher education teaching experience in the related field.

All positions: Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled. Salary competitive, apply online at Bacone.edu and (email HumanResources@Bacone.edu the requested documents) or send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee, OK 74403. Only one application for Adjunct Pool FA-13 is needed for any position listed in this advertisement. Your application will be distributed accordingly. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

Property & Records Management Director

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will begin accepting applications for the Property & Records MANAGEMENT Director. The incumbent will work under the supervision of the Executive Director. Will utilize own initiative and experience while following, Federal, State, and Tribal policies. Responsible for all personal property assigned to designated areas In accordance with the provisions of property regulations. The incumbent also maintains insurance policies by processing premium paperwork on a monthly basis. Other duties assigned by the Executive Director. **QUALIFICATION:** Associates degree with (2) yrs. Related experience in property and/or records management. Prefer Bachelor degree in business or related field. Must possess typing skills and be proficient in Microsoft. **REQUIREMENT:** Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver's license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug testing. **APPLY AT:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015. **CLOSING DATE:** July 19, 2013 C.O.B. EOE UP PL -93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION

Bacone College is looking for a qualified, motivated individual who can manage all functions of the Division of Adult Ed programs and supervise all personnel with the division. Bachelors Degree required, Masters Preferred. Send letter of application, resume, salary requirements and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

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Comanche Nation College invites qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

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Administrative Assistant

Student Services Coordinator/Registrar

For information on each position and responsibilities visit: www.cnc.cc.ok.us.

Qualified applicants must submit a completed packet, consisting of a CNC's job application, which you can find on our website. Plus a letter of interest addressing qualifications, experience, and resume.

Preference in hiring is given to qualified Native Americans in accordance with the Indian Preference Act (Title 25, US Code, Section 472 and 473). Applicants claiming Indian Preference must submit verification of Indian certified by tribal affiliation or other acceptable documentation of Indian heritage.

Moreover, these positions are full time and come with a quality benefit package. Furthermore, these position will remain open until a qualified applicant accepts a job offer.

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NATIVE AMERICAN RECRUITER

A full-time position designed to reach out to the Native American community and express Bacone College's interest in recruiting and retaining students that reflect its cultural heritage. Position requires extensive travel within Oklahoma and the United States.

Candidates should submit resumes to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee, OK 74403 or e-mail to humanresources@bacone.edu

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Cherokee Nation
Human Resources Department
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
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Bacone College is looking for a motivated, qualified individual to manage all functions of Admissions and supervise all personnel with the division. Bachelors Degree required. Experience in Higher Education Admissions preferred. Send letter of application, resume, salary requirements and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

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EVENTS



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EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH JULY 14
Cherokee Women in Art exhibit, Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville. Exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

JULY 11-14
Sac & Fox Nation Powwow, Jim Thorpe Memorial Park, 920883 S State Hwy 99, Stroud. Dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, outdoor camping and much more. 8pm-close. Contact Robert Williamson, 918-225-5788 r 918-290-0554.

JULY 13
Choctaw Nation election for Districts 4 and 9 council representatives. Info: Election Board, P. O. Box 278, Durant, OK 74702-0748, or call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2199, 2535, and 2536

JULY 13
NDN Taco Dinner, 11am-3pm at Delaware Community Center, 170 NE Barbara, Bartlesville. Taco with drink, \$7. Fundraiser for Pryor Wellbriety Powwow. Info call 918-698-0583.

JULY 14
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Powwow, 1900 W McArthur

St., Shawnee. Beginning with blessing at 3pm. Intertribal powwow until 10pm. Arts & Crafts vendors welcome with donation.

JULY 15
It's A Family Day - 11am til 3pm– Education on dementia for all age groups (Children to Elderly), “Faith Based Approach to Alzheimer’s” information to all by Jackie Lenzy, “Elders Rock & Roll” created especially for the youth by Lori Medina, Free Picnic Lunch is provided, Cherokee Nation and Area Agency on Aging Caregiver Respite Care & Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information. At Cherokee Elder Care, 1387 W 4th St., Tahlequah, OK. Please RSVP by July 8, 2013 by contacting Katina Dugger at 918-453-5554.

JULY 18-21
Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment at the Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds, 7500 Hwy 177, Red Rock. Includes gourd dancing, a 5K run and contest dancing. Free and open to the public. Event times vary. Contact Heather Payne, 580-723-4466.

JULY 19-21
Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Sultan Park, 129 E Colorado St, Walters. Categories of dance competition will include gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Contact 580-492-3240.

JULY 26-28
44th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow at 193rd & Javine Hill Road, Skiatook. 6:30pm-close. Contact Donna Phillips, 918-381-7996, dkphillips2002@gmail.com.

JULY 26-28
63rd Annual Indian Hills Powwow at 9300 North Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. 8am-close. Contact Berdina Kodasset, 405-201-1283.

JULY 30
Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4
Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 9-11
Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa Hosts the 36th Annual POW WOW OF CHAMPIONS ORU MABEE CENTER, 7777 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa. More info, www.iicot.org

AUGUST 15-18
Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public. 2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2
Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30-31
Eufaula Indian Community Powwow & Homecoming Eastside Ballpark, Eufaula. eufaulachamberofcommerce.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1
Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah. www.cherokeetourismok.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1
Ottawa Powwow & Celebration at Adawe Park, 11400 S 613 Rd, Miami. Free and open to the public. Friday 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-midnight. Contact Craig Satepauhoodle, 918-542-1536.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Intertribal Powwow, Lake Shawnee, Topeka, KS. Dance specials. Admission \$8 or \$6 in advance. Info: www.shawneecountyalliedtribes.org

SEPTEMBER 6-8
Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow at Wyandotte Nation Tribal Grounds, E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte. Grand entries Friday 8pm, Sat 1:30pm & 7pm, Sun 1:30pm. Contact Sherri Clemons, 918-678-2297.

SEPTEMBER 12-14
Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville. Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15
Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida, Wyandotte. Events held all day. Contact Kenna Simmons, 918-666-2435.

SEPTEMBER 27-28
Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

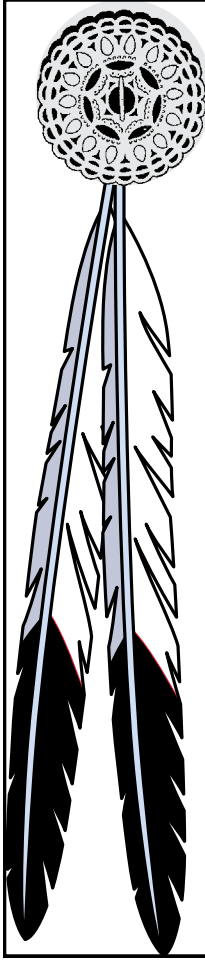
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**“Okie Chocolate”
made in small
Oklahoma
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DAVIS, Okla. – In a corner of a busy interstate corridor in America's heartland, state of the art machines are pumping out thousands of chocolate goodies a day.

From chocolate bars to clusters, at Bedré Fine Chocolates, located near Davis, Okla., this process is done not only to ensure an abundant supply of chocolate delights will be ready for Chocolate Day, July 7, but also for the remaining 364 days of the year.

Owned and operated by the Chickasaw Nation since 2000, Bedré recently started producing a variety of confectionery delicacies in a new, state-of-the-art 34,600-square-foot facility. In this new facility the chocolatier produces nearly 300,000 pounds of chocolate annually which is shipped to retailers nationwide.

Some, however, stays in the adjacent Bedré retail store. In the savory “chocolate boutique” a plethora of

gourmet chocolates - from Meltaways (mint, caramel, hot fudge, peanut butter, raspberry, espresso), candy bars, clusters, twists, and sensations - can be found.

Don't forget the "Oklahoma cow patties" and cowboy boot, cowboy hat and Oklahoma-shaped chocolates.

Chocolate of most shades and flavors can be found enveloping popcorn, peanuts, pecans, potato crisps, cookies, orange slices, coffee beans or Bedré's own caramel.

Bedré Fine Chocolate produces about 20,000 2-ounce chocolate bars a day, and plans to expand the product line are in the works.

The facility will even offer tours in the coming months, so visitors can experience the wonderful sights and smells of the chocolate-making process. The “Bedré Experience” tour will include the history of chocolate and the Bedré process, a behind the scenes tour of the manufacturing floor and chocolate sampling in several forms.

In addition, Bedré, the sole Oklahoma chocolate factory, is a member of the Made in Oklahoma program.

Launched in the late 1980's, the Made In Oklahoma program assists companies in promoting agricultural products that are grown, produced or manufactured in the state of Oklahoma.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bedre' Fine Chocolate is located at the southwest corner of Interstate-35 at Exit 55 at 35 N. Colbert Road in Davis, Okla. It's adjacent to the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center.

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Inside this issue:

- Osage Wedding Clothes exhibit
- Wyandottes break ground for new center
- Sand Creek Massacre descendants sue



NATIVE TIMES

ACTOR BUYING WOUNDED KNEE?



Actress LaDonna Harris, seen here with her adoptive son, Johnny Depp, at the premiere of his movie Lone Ranger, made comments to a British newspaper last week sparking rumors that he intends to buy the Wounded Knee Massacre site currently for sale and return it to the tribe.

Depp's interest in Wounded Knee causes stir

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota (AP) – For months, questions have swirled about whether developers, activists or tribes would be willing to plunk down millions to buy a portion of the Wounded Knee National Historic Landmark. Now there's a new potential buyer in the mix: Johnny Depp.

But is the star of "The Lone Ranger" really preparing to be the one who buys the property where hundreds of Native Americans were killed? Or is it just the latest rumor in the contentious debate over the landmark's future? Depp touched off the story when he told London's Daily Mail newspaper that he is working to buy a piece of the landmark on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to give back to the tribe

because it's important to their culture. The site is where 300 Native American men, women and children were killed by the U.S. 7th Cavalry in 1890. "I am doing my best to make that happen," he told the newspaper of a possible purchase. "It's land they were pushed on to and then they were massacred there. It really saddens me."

See DEPP on Page 4

Tornado relief puts AICCM funding on back burner



The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum sits awaiting completion while officials try to keep donors willing to meet a \$40 million goal.

■ A 2011 study by Applied Economics estimated the museum's economic impact over 20 years would total \$3.8 billion with a \$177 million boost to local tax revenue.

DANA ATTOCKNIE
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY - Warm colored paintings are strategically placed on easels throughout the empty building. Every canvas illustrates what may be built in each space. The ideas for the areas are a work of art in and of themselves, yet without funding, this construction site can't fully be trans-

formed into The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum (AICCM). Completion of this state project wears an \$80 million price tag. A bill that would have appropriated \$40 million over a two-year period for the museum passed both the house and senate committees late in the 2013 legislative session. The bill was then due to be presented for a vote before the full legislature on May 21, the day after an EF-5 tornado tilled up parts of the state, causing unfathomable destruction. Due to the extensive tornado damage, Shoshana Wasserman, AICCM director of communications and cultural tourism, said, "We were asked to consider coming back to the legislature the first two weeks of February

See AICCM on Page 5

Dad in Indian child case seeks Oklahoma adoption

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that South Carolina courts should decide who gets to adopt the 3-year-old named Veronica.

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) – The biological father of an American Indian child who is the center of a custody suit that went to the U.S. Supreme Court has now filed to adopt the child in Oklahoma. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports

that Dusten Brown and other relatives filed the court papers in Oklahoma on Monday. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that South Carolina courts should decide who gets to adopt the 3-year-old named Veronica. South Carolina courts originally said the federal Indian Child Welfare Act favored her living with her father and Brown took custody in 2011. Matt and Melanie Capobianco of James Island, S.C., who raised Veronica for the first 27 months of her life, appealed. Their attorney says the Oklahoma filing will further delay South Carolina proceedings.



Veronica Brown has been living with her father, Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown, near Nowata, Okla. for more than 18 months now.

Osage Congress votes to investigate Chief

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – The Osage Nation Congress voted unanimously last week to form a Special Committee of Inquiry to investigate multiple allegations against the tribe's principal chief. The first step towards potentially removing Principal Chief John Red Eagle from office, the motion from Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw of Skiatook, includes 15 offenses for the committee to investigate, dating back to 2010 through the present day. The five-member committee will meet in executive session Aug. 19 during a special session of Congress to investigate the specific allegations. The committee



Chief John Red Eagle

will then present its recommendation to the Osage Nation Congress of whether sufficient grounds exist for a removal trial, which would be presided over by the tribe's Supreme Court with the full legislature as the jury. "We have reached a tipping point, a time when the actions of others force us to consider a measured and

See OSAGE on Page 3



Meredith Frailey



Robin Mayes

Court denies Cherokee Council election appeals

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – After more than seven hours of arguments July 10, the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court denied two appeals in the tribe's midterm council election. In a 4-1 decision handed down Friday afternoon, the Supreme Court justices declined to allow a run-off in District 15 as requested by incumbent Meredith Frailey. According to unofficial results, Frailey finished second to Janees Taylor by 27 votes in a three-woman race and challenged the mathematical certainty of the results, claiming irregularities caused 22 people to vote in

the wrong district. "...This court finds that the petitioner failed to prove by a preponderance of evidence that any substantial violations of the Cherokee Nation Election Code or any election procedures adopted by the Election Commission in force at the time of the alleged violations occurred so as to affect or have a strong likelihood of affecting the election outcome," Chief Justice Darrell Dowty wrote. The case hinged on 18 voters whose primary address listed with the Cherokee Nation Election Commission is a post office box. After the tribe underwent redistricting last year from five council districts to 15, the CNEC

See APPEALS on Page 5

Osage Wedding Clothes exhibit remembers the past, honors the present

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

Wendy Ponca made the drive from Fairfax to the seat of the Osage Nation in Pawhuska last week to talk about her exhibit, *Wedding Clothes of the Earth and Sky People*, open now through Aug. 7 at the Osage Tribal Museum in Pawhuska. As she sat at a long table to visit with *Native Times* about her work, she looked over her shoulder toward the ceiling of the museum.

Lining the ceiling of the 141-year-old sandstone building's main gallery are dozens of portraits, paintings of notable Osage men and women from the past. Among them is one of an elderly man in an otter cap and shawl draped over his left shoulder, revealing the ritual tattoos once widely-practiced by the tribe on the bare one. He is Nika-wah-ti-anka, her great-great-grandfather and once of the last hereditary chiefs of the Osage before the tribe elected them democratically. His name translates to "Man of Great Courage."

It was that past and its stories that inspired *Wedding Clothes*.

"Osages believe that to be Osage you have to be half Earth person and half sky people. In our belief, the oral tradition, we floated down from the stars. We came from among the stars literally ... and intermarried with the people that were here on Earth, and that's who we are," Ponca said.

The creation narrative is of the Ni-u-kon-ska – as the Osage called themselves before the name of the tribe's Wah-zha-zhe band was morphed into "Osage" by-way-of the French and applied to the entire tribe. "Ni-u-kon-ska" means "people

of the middle water," which has been widely interpreted to mean those who lived in the region of the Mississippi River and its major tributaries. Growing up, however, her father, the late Carl Ponca Jr., told her "middle waters" refer to the Milky Way. It's no wonder he gave her the name Wah-tsi-wen, "Star Woman," fitting with the family's clan role as peace chiefs and gentle protectors.

Ponca grew up in Fairfax on the Osage Reservation. By the time she was two, she was already dancing at Osage Il'lon shka gatherings and traditional dances. She learned finger weaving and beadwork skills from family. When she was older, Ponca went with her father to Santa Fe, N.M., where he taught museum studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA).

"Dad thought it was a good place for me. He was teaching there and thought it would be better for me to be there and (be) challenged," Ponca said.

There she added ribbon work, loom weaving and other traditional skills to her resume. She made ribbon shirts, shawls and traditional clothing for friends

and family. When the school purchased one of her shawls for its museum, she developed her identity as a fiber artist.

Soon, she was selling her work at Native art markets and later exclusively through art galleries. She graduated from Kansas City Arts Institute with a bachelor's degree in fiber arts and later took her master's degree in art therapy from Southwestern College in Santa Fe. Since then, Ponca has taught at IAIA and University of Las Vegas Nevada, and she has worked with organizations such as the National Indian Monument and Institute in Tulsa and the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico. In 1996, the Pendleton Woolen Mills famed for its wool blankets released a series of blanket with designs by four Native American artists, among them Ponca, to raise money for the American Indian College Fund.

With numerous awards honors and pieces in the permanent collections at several museums across the country, Ponca has also designed for fashion. This collection is different.

"I've already done that. For years, I had fashion shows in

L.A., the Denver Art Museum, a really nice one there with Dorothy Grant (Haida) and Margaret Roach Wheeler (Choctaw) ... I just wanted this to be a piece of art," she said.

Wedding Clothes is inspired by that single event in the Genesis tale when people

a roach is a narrow fabric or other material draped over the scalp from the top to the back of the head. Ponca reimagines this classic profile with crystal spires embedded in a silver base. She used crystal and mica in other surprising ways, including in a crown with white feath-

Osage Nation Foundation match grant. *Wedding Clothes* opened in late June with a fashion show and fan-fare. From the tones of the materials to their sources, the exhibit is a nod to Osage beginnings and mythology, but its focus is the tribe's present and the potential of



KAREN SHADE | NATIVETIMES

Osage fiber artist Wendy Ponca in front of one of the photographs in the exhibit *Wedding Clothes of the Earth and Sky People*, on display at the Osage Tribal Museum in Pawhuska through Aug. 7. SEE BELOW: Crystal and silver roach from the exhibit.

from the sky came to Earth and married its children.

The designs represent clothing Osage people wore before the tribe's contact with Europeans and its subsequent influence. They are made of materials available to the people in centuries past — deer and elk buckskin, mica, furs and abalone shell and copper adornments acquired through ancient trade routes. For the sky people, Ponca worked with reflective Mylar, used by NASA in early experiments. Osage artist Terry Wann collaborated with Ponca on silver accessory pieces including cuffs and a special roach. Roaches are the headdresses often seen at powwows and worn by male dancers. Embedded with feathers and/or protruding animal hairs,

ers.

Most pieces – leggings and dresses – for the six outfits were made at Thunderbird Studios, a workspace Ponca and Wann share with a few other artists in Fairfax. There, she also made the costumes created for the independently-produced *Wahzhazhe*, An Osage Ballet, which premiered last year in Tulsa.

Photographs by Ponca's daughter Sara Elsberry are on exhibit at the Osage Tribal Museum across from the dress pieces. The photos, taken at the Cahokia Mounds in Illinois across the border from St. Louis, Mo., show both people in promenade against the sky and the earthen mounds.

The exhibit was funded with aid from a \$25,000

its youth, represented in the models at the show and in the photos on display.

"The most important thing is to show how beautiful these young Osages are," Ponca said. "We're not dead. We're alive and well. We're thriving individuals. Look at us."

Ponca looked back at one of the photos, hanging beneath the line of historic portraits overhead.

"They're healthy, have a beautiful historical past ... I just wanted to show the world just how beautiful we are as a people," she said.

The Osage Tribal Museum is located at 819 Grandview in Pawhuska. Admission is free. For more, go to www.osagetribe.com or call the museum at (918) 287-5411.





Thank you to Kevin Red Star for donating prints. Kevin Red Star is a member of the Apsaalooke Tribe and is a Master Artist and Visual Historian. Please see conference manual for more information about Mr. Red Star.

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Open records request results in added complaints in Osage Chief civil suit

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. — A civil complaint against Osage Principal Chief John Red Eagle has been amended to include allegations brought to light by an open records request.

On Friday afternoon, attorney general Jeff Jones filed an amendment to his ethics complaint against Red Eagle, adding a fourth count for using tribal funds to pay a contractor to maintain and develop a non-tribal website.

Paul Allen, who was appointed in 2010, works on Chief Red Eagle's personal website, www.johnredeagle.com. The website was also used by Red Eagle's campaign when he ran for chief in 2010 and was included on promotional materials distributed by his campaign team. The site and domain name are not registered to the tribe, but the Osage Nation's website does have a link to it on the executive branch's page.

According to the amended complaint, Allen has received \$71,603 since signing a contract with the Osage Nation in August 2010 for his services.

Potential penalties for violating the Osage Nation Ethics Law include fines, a public reprimand, removal from office and disqualification from all elected and appointed tribal government positions.

Originally unearthed through an Open Records request from a Barnsdall newspaper for the executive branch's check registry, Allen's position with the tribe is among the 15

counts that will be investigated by an Osage Congressional Select Committee of Inquiry next month, as is an alleged Open Records Act violation that is at the heart of a separate civil lawsuit.

In a motion to dismiss the Osage News' lawsuit, representatives for the chief's office argued Thursday that the since the Osage News receives tribal funds, the newspaper's staff are government employees, which in turn prevents the newspaper from being eligible to challenge any open records request denials. The publication is suing Red Eagle's office for not responding to a request for a copy of the tribe's contract with Rod Hartness, a non-Osage pipeline consultant.

"Congress wrote the Open Records Act so that it applied only to the public and not to employees of the nation," Red Eagle attorney Kirke Kickingbird said.

After initially requesting it in January, the Osage News received a copy of the contract in question last month in Red Eagle's initial response. The newspaper is now seeking attorney's fees and court costs. The newspaper's editorial board had offered to drop the lawsuit in exchange for those fees, but that request was denied.

The tribe's Open Records Act allows for 10 days to provide the record, request additional time or explain in writing why the request can not be fulfilled. Requests that do not receive any kind of response within 35 days can be brought before tribal court.

The next hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Aug. 8.

Descendants of Sand Creek Massacre victims sue

DENVER (AP) – A lawsuit filed by descendants of American Indians killed in the Sand Creek Massacre argues the federal government hasn't fully paid reparations for the slaughter of their Cheyenne and Arapaho ancestors in 1864.

The Department of Interior isn't commenting on the pending litigation.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Denver on behalf of four Oklahoma-based members of the Sand

Creek Massacre Descendants Trust. It seeks class-action status.

Plaintiff Robert Simpson of Anadarko tells The Denver Post the plaintiffs won't forget what happened.

The early-morning massacre in what is now southeastern Colorado is estimated to have killed more than 160 people – including many women and children – when federal soldiers attacked Indians camping.

OSAGE

Continued from Page 1

appropriate response of our own," Speaker Raymond Red Corn said July 8 while opening the special session. "We are in search of the facts. If a committee of inquiry is formed, we will find the facts and act accordingly."

According to the 2.5-page written motion, the allegations against Red Eagle include:

- Interfering with an investigation of the Osage Nation Attorney General's office on May 31, 2013.
- Attempting to have the aforementioned attorney general's office investigation "terminated to give preferential treatment to an employee."
- Abuse of power to improperly influence the administration of the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board by directing the board, or its employee, to pay for unauthorized expenses of Board member

Randy Carnett.

- Abuse of power in April 2011 by attempting to improperly influence the decision of the Osage LLC Board by proposing the purchase of Pawhuska Dozer and hire Rod Hartness as its Chief Executive Officer with money appropriated by Congress while the appropriation law was still awaiting Red Eagle's signature, implying that his signature on the appropriation law was contingent upon the board's agreement to comply with the proposal.
- Abuse of power by attempting to improperly influence the Osage Minerals Council in April 2011 to require all oil producers who did not have their own equipment to give Hartness first right of refusal to do any site work if he did become the CEO of the Pawhuska Dozer Company.
- Refusing to uphold a tribal law that delegates "full and sole control over all Minerals Estate accounts" to the Osage Minerals Council. The law was enacted in Oc-

Long-time chair of Otoe-Missouria encampment committee stepping down

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

RED ROCK, Okla. – It all started with a dinner.

"Back in 1970, there was a chairman was just re-elected to run the encampment," Otoe-Missouria Encampment chairman Hank Childs said. "He asked me to come to a dinner and I didn't know why he was asking. So we went to that dinner and he stood up, talked to the crowd and asked if I wanted to be on the committee as treasurer."

"It started right then and I've been on the committee since."

On Sunday, Childs will step down as chairman of the Otoe-Missouria encampment committee after more than 30 years of leadership. The 132nd Otoe-Missouria encampment is scheduled to start Thursday morning at the tribe's Old Agency outside of Red Rock, Okla.

More than 250 families set up campsites during the four-day event last year to powwow. Along with three nights of contest dancing, attendees also come to participate

in additional activities, such as foot races, a language bowl competition, archery and horseshoe contests and children's events, including turtle races.


"One of the happiest parts for me is on Thursday night," Childs said. "That's when we bring the little boys and little girls into the arena for the first time. They get plumed or roached for the first time and go out there and dance. You just watch those little ones out there and tell yourself, 'They'll be the feature dancer one day. They'll be the ones taking our places on the committee.'"

Little ones are also part of the reason Childs and his wife are stepping away from the encampment committee. After their terms expire this year, they are retiring in order to spend time with their children and grandchildren. Although they are grateful for their time serving their tribe and carrying on its traditions, Childs said he and his wife are ready to let someone else have the opportunity.

"We've enjoyed it and have done our best to serve our people and do the right thing," he said. "We've tried to do the right thing and do things like our elders did."

CORRECTION: Last week, a headline in the July 12 issue of the Native American Times erroneously stated that the Otoe-Missouria Encampment was taking place in Perkins, Okla. The headline should have read "Red Rock, Okla." as was indicated in the press release submitted by the tribe.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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DEPP

Continued from Page 1

Landowner James Czywczynski, whose family has owned the property since 1968, is trying to sell the 40-acre (16.19-hectare) fraction of the historic landmark and another 40-acre parcel for \$4.9 million. The two parcels of land have been assessed for \$14,000. The sale has sparked outrage among tribal members who feel Czywczynski is trying to profit from the killing of their ancestors.

Since the interview was published last week, Depp's been quiet, and there's been no record of an offer made for the land. Depp's publicist did not respond to repeated calls and emails seeking comment, while Czywczynski, who has said his goal has always been to get the land back to the tribe, did not return calls.

Oglala Sioux President Bryan Brewer, whose tribe lives on Pine Ridge, said he has not been contacted by anyone in Depp's camp and was first notified of the actor's interest when someone from England called him for reaction. Brewer said he and a group of descendants of Wounded Knee survivors are hoping to meet with Czywczynski soon.

The possibility of the celebrity purchase is generating debate in Native American communities. Some question Depp's motives due to the timing of "The Lone Ranger" release, which debuted with a dismal \$19.5 million in ticket sales on its opening weekend in early July. Depp, who plays the part of the Native American character Tonto in the film, has been accused of playing into stereotypes and misappropriating Native American culture. Tonto speaks broken English, wears a stuffed crow on his head and has a face painted with white and black stripes. Some Native Americans view the character as a parody.

Depp's also been criticized for saying that he does have Native American ancestry, but he's unsure if it's Cherokee or Creek.

"People I've talked to think he's in it for redemption because he's gotten bad reviews," said Oglala Sioux tribal member Dawn Moves Camp, 30.

Besides its proximity to the burial grounds, the land includes the site of a former trading post burned down during the 1973 Wounded Knee uprising, in which hundreds of American Indian Movement protesters occupied the town built at the massacre site. The 71-day standoff that left two tribal members dead and a federal agent seriously wounded is credited with

raising awareness about Native American struggles and giving rise to a wider protest movement.

Depp's purchase of the land would be an easy answer for the tribe, Moves Camp said, but it would also be dehumanizing.

"It's also buying into the idea that our ancestry and history have a price tag on them," she said, later adding: "We have pride too. We'd rather it be done in an honorable way. I hope our tribe finds some way to buy the land back without outside help."

For some descendants of those killed in the massacre, how the tribe gets the land doesn't matter. What does is that the tribe gets it back, said Joseph Brings Plenty, a former chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe who had several ancestors killed in the 1890 massacre.

Although the land sits on the Pine Ridge reservation, many of the descendants of the massacre victims and survivors are members of several different Lakota tribes.

"Honestly, I don't think it would be a bad thing if Johnny Depp would purchase it with the cooperation of the tribes," he said. What's most important, he said, is that the land is preserved and an accurate account of what happened is shared with visitors through a monument.

Tribal members have disagreed over the years about how to commemorate the lives lost at Wounded Knee. While there is a small monument listing some of the names of those killed in 1890, some tribal members think a larger statue or structure is needed to educate the public.

Sonny Skyhawk, a Sicanu Lakota actor and founder of American Indians in Film and Television, said although he was not a fan of Depp playing Tonto in "The Lone Ranger," purchasing the land would be a "great opportunity" for Depp to step forward and do something for Native Americans.

"If it's from the heart, we accept it. If it's not from the heart, we'll accept it anyways because it's such a meaningful undertaking when you look at the significance of what the sacred ground next to it is," he said.

Associated Press reporters Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Arizona, and Susan Montoya Bryan Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this report.

SD tribes focus on creating own foster care system

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) – Tribal members from South Dakota gathered Monday in Rapid City to discuss how they could form their own tribal-run foster care system.

The Rapid City Journal reports that foster care among Native American children was the main topic of morning conversation during the first day of a three-day meeting of Sioux tribes. The meeting is the third in a series of quar-

terly summits between the state's nine tribes.

Tribal members discussed potential models for Native-run foster care systems. On the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe runs a foster care system that is partially funded by the state of South Dakota. Although it must follow South Dakota rules, it focuses on traditional Lakota cultures.



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
From left, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, Architect Robert Johnson, Builders Unlimited Inc. Owner Steve Wright, Wyandotte Nation Councilperson Juanita McQuistion, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., Councilperson Eric Lofland, and Councilperson Ramona Reid ceremonially break the ground at the site of the tribe's planned community center.

Wyandotte Nation breaks ground on \$1.2 million community center

■ Floor plans for the \$1.2 million community center, located at 14325 Porcupine Rd., will provide space for a senior center, activity center, kitchen and a saferoom.

WILLIAM SWAIM
Wyandotte Nation Media Release

WYANDOTTE, Okla. – The Wyandotte Nation broke ground on a 7,184 square foot Community Center Friday morning, July 12, near the newer housing developments in Wyandotte, Okla.

"This Community Center is going to be a great addition for all of our citizens who live here," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend to a large crowd attending the groundbreaking ceremony. "It's going to be a place where young people can come and find a place to do recreational activities, to work in a computer lab. It's going to have a kitch-

en. It's going to have an area where families can gather together to have their family reunions, have meetings, and have community events. It's going to have a saferoom where people can come and seek shelter when tornadoes are in the area."

Floor plans for the \$1.2 million community center, located at 14325 Porcupine Rd., will provide space for a senior center, activity center, kitchen and a saferoom. It will also be the new home to the Wyandotte Nation housing department, which should make the offices more accessible to all.

Chief Friend said the Community Center is just another step in the Tribe's ongoing process of improving the community. He said it takes several things to build the community.

"People look for quality healthcare. Of course we now have the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center," the Chief said. "People look for quality education for their children. We have

the greatest preschool in the nation we think with the Turtle Tot program. Not only that, but we strongly support the Wyandotte public school system. And of course, housing – we've been able to build quality, affordable housing for tribal citizens. We're continuing to expand the tribal housing.

"All those components it takes to build a community – a strong Indian and Wyandotte community. We're adding those pieces one piece at a time to complete that puzzle. This is a big piece of that puzzle."

Builders Unlimited Inc., based out of Tulsa, will do the construction on the project. Owner Steve Wright was on hand for the groundbreaking.

Builders Unlimited's previous projects include the Broken Arrow Historical Museum and the Choctaw Nation Headstart in Wilburton, Okla.

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COMMENTARY ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Covert racism or plain stupidity: That is the question



TIM GIANO

If you are Native American and you have lived in Rapid City for any length of time, the actions of the Department of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board last Thursday would have come as no surprise.

After two previous meetings, the board finally voted 4 – 3 to deny Native Americans the opportunity to place four bronze busts of famous Native Americans in Rapid City’s Halley Park.

I felt from the moment I entered the arena of the

old Sioux Indian Museum at Halley Park that we were about to face a rigged and forgone conclusion of a decision. That feeling just hung in the air. The board saw to it that five of the grandchildren of Mr. James Halley, for whom the park was named, were present. It was almost as if they collectively brought a feeling of “Oh my God; they are trying to place the busts of Indians in our precious park.”

Most of the people standing up in opposition to the plan were folks who lived in the park neighborhood. To a person they said, “Oh, the idea is a really good one, but not in our neighborhood.” One elderly lady almost uttered the racist words that seemed to be on the minds of those people opposed to the project. She said, “I’ve lived in Rapid City for 70 years and if they put those statues there the next thing you know Oh, I can’t

even find the words.” Every Indian in the place knew the words. They were, “The next thing you know there will be a bunch of drunken Indians panhandling and dirtying up the park in our precious neighborhood.”

Actually the idea of the Sculpture Garden of Native Americans was hatched by the longtime activist and professor, Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, a member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. She wanted to place the busts of accomplished Native Americans like Vine Deloria, Jr., a noted Indian author, Oscar Howe, one of the great Indian artists of our time, Charles Eastman, an author and physician, and the famous holy man Black Elk, in the park to show the rest of the world that we (Native Americans) had intelligent, professional scholars and artistic members in our history who seldom make it into the history and text books of

non-Native America.

At a previous meeting a few months back Cook-Lynn was quoted as speaking of “little white girls” and this comment set off board member Jeff Schild. His impression of one of the ‘good ole boys,’ intentional or not, was right on. His efforts at making light of a serious proposal were embarrassing to some of the other board members and definitely to all of the Native Americans in attendance.

Mr. Schild made it his goal to attack and embarrass the elderly Dakota woman, Liz Cook-Lynn. “I didn’t like your comment about little white girls because I have two daughters of my own and Oh yes; I’m of Russian and German descent.” Retorted Liz, “Well you folks refer to our children as ‘little Indians,’ so what’s the difference? But Schild kept jabbing away until he forced an apology from Cook-Lynn. It

seems that his attacks upon Cook-Lynn were his only reason for showing up that night and his obvious opposition to the proposal to place the statues in Halley Park was secondary.

For more than 50 years the Sioux Indian Museum was located in the very park Cook-Lynn selected for the Sculpture Garden of Native Americans. The lame excuse that by placing the statues in the park would create traffic problems was repeated over and over and the proven fact that the Sioux Museum never caused traffic problems in all of the years it shared the park was never mentioned.

The placing of the Indian statues in the park would then become a “destination” according to Mr. Schild, Nick Stroot and Chuck Tinant, three of the board members who voted against the plan. “The location is a big concern,” they almost chimed in unison. And they could have

added, yes, my dear little Indians, it’s a good idea, but not in our neighborhood.

There are statues of past white American presidents on nearly every street corner in downtown Rapid City. Are they also considered a “destination” because there is certainly a lot of traffic passing through downtown? No, they are more of a distraction than a destination.

We ask Elizabeth Cook-Lynn to stick to her guns and don’t give up the fight. Discouragement is the first roadblock to accomplishment.

The next step of the Four Nations Sculpture Park Corporation will be to take the fight to the newly elected, second-term mayor, Sam Kooiker. As Mr. Schild would probably say in his best impression of one of the “good ole boys,” There’s more than one way to skin a cat.”

– Tim Giago can be reached at unitysodak1@knology.net)

AICCM

Continued from Page 1

next year for the money.”

“We feel really confident that we would have had the votes ... we know that our leaders lead their community, they keep the people’s best interest in mind. You have community members that are suffering devastation ... you have to think about things differently,” she said.

Blake Wade, Native American Cultural Center and Educational Authority (NACEA) CEO, told The Journal Record May 21 that Native American people have always put the community needs first and it’s no different now. He acknowledged all the people suffering from the aftermath of the tornados and said, “Tomorrow we will look optimistically to the future of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum.”

This year the bill to fund AICCM was coupled with the proposed funding for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) in Tulsa.

If a bill is passed next year for AICCM, the \$40 million directly from the state will be dispersed in increments. The additional \$40 million needed may still come from private donors. In 2012, Gov. Mary Fallin asked Wade and Lee Allan Smith to raise \$40 million

dollars in private donations. Therefore, the state would only have to match half of the \$80 million needed for its project. Last year the measure lost by one vote, Wasserman said, but the donors agreed to continue with their support.

“Now they’re in the position where they’re asking them (donors) again,” Wasserman said. “We feel like we might lose some of the donors, but were hoping the majority of the donors will stay on board. If those \$40 million dollars worth of private sector donations go away, then the state is back in a situation where they have \$80 million to raise again to complete it ... that’s a significant difference.”

Wasserman said the idea for a cultural center began years ago when the late Henry Bellman was governor. Then in 1994, the state agency, NACEA was established to help create and manage AICCM. Numerous studies have shown Oklahoma needs to uplift its cultural tourism market by focusing on its western heritage and Native American heritage, she said.

“That’s what’s unique about Oklahoma and that’s what no other state can really deliver in quite the way we can,” Wasserman said. “All of these studies show there was this tremendous cultural opportunity and economic opportunity to build this center. So that’s where the idea was born.”

According to The Oklahoman, a 2011 study by Applied Economics “estimated the museum’s economic impact over 20 years would total \$3.8 billion with a \$177 million boost to local tax revenue.”

Yet, to other audiences, the impact could be more profound.

“We are creating a home. A place where history is alive. Where moments do not simply pass, but envelop us in their power. Where the elements are not to be escaped, but experienced. Where an object is not just to be observed, but absorbed,” the AICCM website states.

The architecture of the museum has significance to Native American beliefs embedded in it and the basic elements of earth, fire, water and wind will be incorporated throughout the site, as well as having tribute to the four cardinal directions. Both a historical and a contemporary account of Native American lives and governments will be given. There will be a changing art exhibition in addition to other galleries and interactive areas.

“The whole thing we’re trying to convey is don’t leave Indians in the past, bring us into the contemporary reality by juxtaposing this current imaging with cultural material,” Wasserman said. “We also want people to begin to look at these materials as living things, not as objects in a box or in a case, but rather connecting it to culture.”

The land the museum sits

on was once part of Oklahoma City Oil Field No. 1. The industrial site housed gas wells and storage tanks, which were left on the site along with oil lines and surface contaminants. Due to the environmental issues, extensive site remediation had to take place before construction of AICCM could begin.

Wasserman said healing the ground before construction was, “part of our role as Native people, as stewards of this place,” to restore the land back to a pristine state. She said, “Then you could look at healing on another level. It’s about healing relationships, relationships between tribes. We had tribes that came from other areas that were natural enemies, so healing those relationships,” plus it’s an “intersection between earth and man, kind of restoring balance in relation to man and nature.”

The fate of the state’s project could be decided in the next legislative session and Wasserman urges everybody to call their senator and their representative to let them know how important they think it is to complete this project.

“It has a significant impact when people make those calls and they send the emails. Every single call, every single email is logged and that really matters,” Wasserman said. “That is absolutely the best thing that people can do.”

APPEALS

Continued from Page 1

was assigned to ensure voters were assigned to the correct district.

A January CNEC resolution stated registered voters with post office boxes listed who did not provide a physical address with the commission by the final registration date of April 1 would be placed in the district in which their post office boxes were located.

Frailey testified that she visited the post offices for Locust Grove, Okla., Salina, Okla., and Pryor, Okla., and confirmed that each is within the boundaries of District 15, which includes portions of Mayes and Rogers counties.

However, for many of the voters in question, the election commission was able to obtain physical addresses through county, state and tribal records that placed them in another adjacent district.

“The ‘post office box’ rule says it applies only if there is no other address,” CNEC attorney Harvey Chaffin said during his closing argument Wednesday. “The election

commission found other definite addresses.

“To my knowledge, no one was placed in a district by the ‘post office box’ rule.”

Frailey and Taylor could not be reached for comment Friday.

The other denied appeal came from at-large candidate Robin Mayes. The challenge from the Denton, Texas, resident sought to have the entire election invalidated because of the roughly 5,000 pending citizenship applications from Freedmen descendants. While federal litigation continues, the Cherokee Nation has not processed citizenship applications from Freedmen descendants who do not have at least one ancestor listed as Cherokee, Cherokee-Delaware or Cherokee-Shawnee on the Dawes Rolls.

After briefly deliberating Wednesday, the justices denied Mayes’ appeal on the grounds that it did not meet the requirements for an election challenge.

As per tribal law, inauguration is scheduled for Aug. 14.

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Mark Allen Johnson is the son of Mr. Sampson Johnson, full-blood Chickasaw and the late Lucille (Harjo) Johnson, ½ Seminole 1/2 Creek. Mark served 9 years on the General Council of the Seminole Nation. He served on the Enterprise Board and on the Constitutional Revision Committee. Mr. Johnson also has 15 years experience working with the Chickasaw Nation Health System (CNHS) as a facility manager and in telecommunications. He earned a degree from Seminole State College in Applied Sciences. Mark is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and in Hazardous Waste Management. He is also certified as a first responder and with the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Mark Allen Johnson

Chickasaw Nation Tribal elections begin in June with ballots being mailed out to qualified voters on July 15, 2013.



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Re-Advertisement--The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Transportation department will begin accepting applications for Transportation Director. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall administration of the Tribal Transportation Program grant and all applicable laws. QUALIFICATIONS: Preferred-Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related engineering field or Masters Degree in Civil Engineering or Registered Professional Engineer. Minimum-Bachelors Degree, three (3) years experience managing the design, construction, or maintenance of a transportation system. Two(2) years supervisory experience of at least five(5) full time employees. REQUIREMENTS: Must possess a Valid Oklahoma Drivers License. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and Drug Testing. Salary range \$25.00 ph to \$ 38.00 ph. APPLY AT: The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015 or call for an application at (580)654-2300 extension 356/360. CLOSING DATE: July 24, 2013 C.O.B. EOE UP PL-93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

Finance Officer

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting application for Finance Officer. The Finance Officer is responsible for directing all of the activities of the Finance Department. This position requires considerable administrative and professional skills in the areas of tribal/governmental accounting and finance. QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelors' degree with a major in accounting or finance and the completion of thirty (30) semester hours of accounting at the college level: or combination of training and experience in tribal/governmental accounting of seven yrs. or more and supervisory experience. REQUIREMENTS: A knowledge about and skill with computerized accounting systems that normally have at least five users such as Great Plains, Sage MIPS, or another similar sized computerized accounting system. Must submit to and pass a background check and drug testing. Must have a valid Oklahoma driver's license. Apply At: The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department P.O. Box 369 Carnegie, Ok 73015 CLOSING DATE July 30, 2013 C.O.B EOE UP PL -93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

LEAD TEACHER

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Head Start Program will start taking applications for a lead Teacher. The incumbent will plan and implement learning experiences that advance intellectual and physical development of children, this includes improving the readiness of children for school by developing their literacy, phonemic and print awareness, their use of language and use of increasingly complex and varied vocabulary, their appreciation of books, their understanding of early math and early science, their problem-solving abilities and their approach to learning. QUALIFICATION: Must be computer literate. Bachelor's Degree in Early childhood Education or equivalent to related field in early childhood education, with experience teaching preschool-age children. REQUIREMENTS: Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver's license. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background investigation with DHS Criminal History Review; no violent offenses, child abuse and/or neglect or sexual offenses. Physical Exam and TB test. APPLY AT: The Kiowa Tribe Oklahoma, Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, Ok 73015 or call for an application at 580.654.2300 ext. 360 Closing Date: July 26, 2013 C.O.B. EOE UP PL-93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

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DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION

Bacone College is looking for a qualified, motivated individual who can manage all functions of the Division of Adult Ed programs and supervise all personnel with the division. Bachelors Degree required, Masters Preferred. Send letter of application, resume, salary requirements and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403 or humanresources@bacone.edu. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@native-times.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

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The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY

Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY

Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrrc.org

THROUGH JULY 14

Cherokee Women in Art exhibit, Bunkhouse Gallery at Woolaroc near Bartlesville. Exhibit will include work from Victoria Mitchell Vazquez (pottery), Debbe Edwards (stone and wood sculpture), Sharon Irla (painting), Katherine Rackliff (basketry) and Verna Bates (gourd masks, gourd art).

JULY 18-21

Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment at the Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds, 7500 Hwy 177, Red Rock. Includes gourd dancing, a 5K run and contest dancing. Free and open to the public. Event times vary. Contact Heather Payne, 580-723-4466.

JULY 19-21

Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Sultan Park, 129 E Colorado St, Walters. Categories of dance competition will include gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Contact 580-492-3240.

JULY 26-28

44th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow at 193rd & Javine Hill Road, Skiatook. 6:30pm-close. Contact Donna Phillips, 918-381-7996, dkphillips2002@gmail.com.

JULY 26-28

63rd Annual Indian Hills Powwow

at 9300 North Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. 8am-close. Contact Berdina Kodasset, 405-201-1283.

JULY 28-AUGUST 1

Indian Falls Creek. Registration fees: 6 years and younger: \$15. 7 years and older: \$55. For more information: visit www.indian-falls-creek.net, or Victor Cope, Exec. Director, ndnrev@aol.com or 405-395-4226.

JULY 30

Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4

Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 9-11

Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa Hosts the 36th Annual POW WOW OF CHAMPIONS ORU MABEE CENTER, 7777 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa. More info, www.iicot.org

AUGUST 10

Indian Taco Sale. 11:00am-2:30pm. OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. For more information: 405-681-0869.

AUGUST 15-18

Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public. 2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Fes-

tival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1

Eufaula Indian Community 17th Annual Labor Day Pow-wow & Homecoming at Eastside Ballpark on Lake Eufaula 7:00pm Grand Entry, Free Admission, Dance competitions, arts and crafts, food vendors, outdoor camping and a Alzheimer's Memorial Walk. Contact JayDee Tiger, EIC Pow-wow Chairperson (918)707-0361

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1

Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah. www.cherokeetourismok.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1

Ottawa Powwow & Celebration at Adawe Park, 11400 S 613 Rd, Miami. Free and open to the public. Friday 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-midnight. Contact Craig Satepauhoodle, 918-542-1536.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1

Intertribal Powwow, Lake Shawnee, Topeka, KS. Dance specials. Admission \$8 or \$6 in advance. Info: www.shawneecountyaliedtribes.org

SEPTEMBER 6-8

Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow at Wyandotte Nation Tribal Grounds, E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte. Grand entries Friday 8pm, Sat 1:30pm & 7pm, Sun 1:30pm. Contact Sherri Clemons, 918-678-2297.

SEPTEMBER 12-14

Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville.

Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15

Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida, Wyandotte. Events held all day. Contact Kenna Simmons, 918-666-2435.

SEPTEMBER 27-28

Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

SEPTEMBER 28

The Chickasaw Annual Meeting Various Locations, Tishomingo. Phone: 580-371-2040 Toll Free: 800-593-3356

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Inside this issue:

- Candidate wants election invalidated
- Sweat Lodge ‘guru’ out of jail
- Native artist takes modern view



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NATIVE TIMES

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JULY 26, 2013

Tribe jails man over Facebook postings

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – A Blackfeet tribal citizen jailed over Facebook postings critical of the tribe’s governing council said last week that his arrest should encourage more people to speak out against what he called corrupt leadership on the northwestern Montana reservation.

Bryon Farmer was

released July 16 on \$500 bail after spending five days in a Browning jail over posts made to his Blackfeet Against Corruption Facebook page. He was charged with violating a tribal ordinance outlawing statements meant to harm, discredit or expose a council member to hatred, ridicule or contempt.

Farmer, 33, said he was arrested for exercising his right to free speech.

“I was held against my will

for speaking against the tribe for all the corruption they put the people through,” he told The Associated Press as he was driving home to Great Falls. “Not once did I threaten one person on the Blackfeet council.”

Tribal attorney Sandra Watts did not respond to a request for comment. The Flathead Beacon, which first reported the story, reported that tribal Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. said Farmer’s arrest

was necessary to protect the council members.

“We were within our rights as a tribe to protect the interests of our members,” Sharp told the Kalispell newspaper. “When they cross the line and start inciting violence, that’s when you have to take it seriously.”

The posts on the Blackfeet Against Corruption Facebook page have been sharp in their criticism of the Blackfeet Tribal Business

Council. Since last year, five council members have been suspended or removed in intra-tribal disputes, leaving what is supposed to be a nine-member panel partially vacant and ruling under an emergency declared by Sharp.

Critics such as Farmer say Sharp and his allies are ruling by decree, and there is no emergency. Some of the suspended council members

See **FACEBOOK** on Page 3



Bryon Farmer was released July 16 on \$500 bail after spending five days in a Browning jail over posts made to his Blackfeet Against Corruption Facebook page.

BACK TO S. CAROLINA



FILE

The South Carolina Supreme Court awarded custody of Veronica Brown, a Cherokee girl now living with her biological father, to adoptive parents Matt and Melanie Capobianco of James Island, S.C.

S.C. Supreme Court awards white couple custody of Cherokee child

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

COLUMBIA, S.C. – In a 3-2 decision last week, the South Carolina Supreme Court awarded custody of a Cherokee child at the center of a protracted legal battle to a non-Native couple attempting to adopt her.

The court ruled on July 17 that Matt and Melanie Capobianco of James Island, S.C., were the only party properly seeking to

adopt the three-year-old girl known as “Baby Veronica” and ordered the lower family court to finalize the adoption without a hearing.

The child’s biological father, Dusten Brown of Nowata, Okla., has filed paperwork in Oklahoma to adopt the child and the paternal grandparents have filed adoption paperwork with the Cherokee Nation.

In a 5-4 decision last month, the U.S.

See **CHILD** on Page 4

Osage case brings up free press issues

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – An Oklahoma tribal newspaper’s legal fight for records access is throwing Native American press issues back in the spotlight.

The Osage News is in the middle of a civil lawsuit against Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s office for not responding to a request for a copy of the tribe’s contract with Rod Hartness, a non-Osage pipeline consultant. The complaint is among

15 other allegations against the chief that will be investigated by a select Congressional committee next month during a special session.

The tribe’s Open Records Act allows for 10 days to either provide the record, request additional time or explain in writing why the request cannot be fulfilled. Requests that do not receive any kind of response within 35 days can be brought before tribal court. Red Eagle’s attorneys maintain that since the newspaper receives tribal

funding, its employees are government employees and are therefore ineligible to request records under the Osage Open Records Act.

Regional and national news outlets, as well as professional organizations have reached out to the newspaper to show their support for its lawsuit, including the Native American Journalists Association, which launched a legal aid hotline for reporters Friday during its national convention.

See **PRESS** on Page 5

House GOP sponsor wants new voting rights law

LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – The House Republican sponsor of the Voting Rights Act updates said Wednesday that Congress must pass a new anti-discrimination law before the 2014 elections that restores the federal supervision the Supreme Court struck down in June.

“The Supreme Court said it’s an obligation of Congress to do this. That’s a command of a separate but co-equal branch of

government to do that,” Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., told reporters Wednesday after urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to get moving on the issue. The law, he said, should be passed before the congressional elections. He added that House GOP leaders are open to the task, but they have to see a draft first, it must address the court’s objections and be “politically acceptable in both houses” of Congress.

“The American people expect us to roll up our sleeves and get to work,”

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a veteran of the civil rights movement, said at the same hearing.

The 1965 law and its extensions have historically won overwhelming bipartisan support.

But Republicans and Democrats working together is a tall order in an age of divided government and scorched-earth partisanship that only died down a day earlier when the Senate struck a deal to avert a ban on some filibusters.

See **VOTING** on Page 4

Chickasaw governor hopeful on water lawsuit talks

SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The governor of one of Oklahoma’s largest Native American tribes said Wednesday he is hopeful about ongoing negotiations with the state over lawsuits involving the tribes’ legal rights to water in their historic territories in southeast Oklahoma.

When asked about ongoing negotiations with state officials over the lawsuit involving the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations, Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby said: “I have hope for the future.”

All parties in the ongoing mediation talks are limited about what they can say because of a gag order that’s

been put in place by a federal judge, and Anoatubby declined to speculate about a timeline for when a decision might be reached.

“We have hope that it will be resolved timely,” Anoatubby said. “I think it will be something for the benefit of both the tribes and the state. We’re looking at long-term sustainability for the asset, proper allocations so that the people in southeastern Oklahoma and the state of Oklahoma can benefit from its resources.”

Brian McClain, who is involved in the negotiations on behalf of the Choctaw Nation, echoed Anoatubby’s sentiments.

“We’re after a long-term

See **WATER** on Page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations are battling the Oklahoma government over Sardis Lake in southeastern Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City Water Utility Trust wants a water-use permit to withdraw water from the reservoir, which is located within the historic territories of each of the tribes.

Candidate alleges ballot security compromised

■ Principal Chief candidate Jeff Harjo is requesting the entire election be declared invalid.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WEWOKA, Okla. – The results from the Seminole Nation's July 13 election are in and under appeal.

The challenge comes from outgoing Eufaula Band council member Jeff Harjo, who, with almost a quarter of the votes cast, finished second to incumbent Leonard Harjo in the principal chief's race. Jeff Harjo is requesting the entire July 13 election be declared invalid due to multiple potential violations of the Seminole Nation's election code.

"I just feel that the voters of the Seminole Nation did not have a fair and honest election," the Shawnee resident said. "It's not because I didn't make the run-off. I feel that something was definitely wrong with this election."

Among the alleged violations are questions of ballot security. In addition to not having a Seminole Nation lighthorse officer at the Tulsa or Oklahoma City precincts when the polls closed, according to Harjo's complaint, the ballot box at a third polling place was unlocked and opened during voting hours because the voting machine jammed.

Under section 409 of the Seminole Nation election code, ballot boxes are not to be unlocked or removed from a polling place at any time before voting ends. The same section also calls for a lighthorse officer to move the ballot box to a designated central location as soon as the polling place closes.



Jeff Harjo

According to Harjo's filing, a police officer was not dispatched from the Mekuskey Mission near Seminole to the Tulsa precinct until 15 minutes after the polls closed. The polling place, located in southern Tulsa County, was more than 85 miles away.

Additionally, there are questions of whether three referenda should have been voted on alongside the open offices.

Earlier this year, the Seminole Nation General Council approved three proposed Constitutional amendments to go before voters.

Question No. 1 would change the names of two of the tribe's bands – Hvtieyivlke and Bruner – to Hvtieyivlke and Caesar Bruner.

Question No. 2 dealt with the jurisdiction of the tribe's judiciary and gives it authority over all cases other than criminal within its service area in which at least one party involved is a Seminole Nation citizen. Previously, non-citizens were only subject to the tribe's judicial authority if they volunteered.

Question No. 3 would allow the Seminole Nation General Council to establish, levy and collect taxes within the tribe's jurisdictional area in central Oklahoma.

Each ballot question passed with more than 60 percent of the votes cast.

According to the published minutes from the March 2 council meeting, the three ballot questions were approved to go before voters in a "special referendum election" in July. Under the tribe's election code, the legislature must schedule the special election and specifically include provisions in writing if open voting, or voting at a precinct other than the one specified on a voter identification card, is to be allowed. The adopted resolutions make no reference to a specific election date or open voting, despite the practice being allowed in the July 13 election. The ballots used on July 13 do not specify whether they are for a special or a general election.

"We should have had two separate elections," Harjo said. "One for the offices and one just for the referenda."

On Friday, Harjo confirmed that he plans to file an additional complaint with the Seminole Nation Election Appeals Board. Reports of additional candidates filing election appeals could not be independently verified.

Seminole election board chairman Glenn Davis did not return calls seeking comment.

As per the tribe's election code, the Seminole Nation Election Board has 10 days to file its response with the appeals board. Once the appeals board receives the response, it has an additional 10 days to schedule a hearing on the matter.

Pending the appeal's outcome, the official results as posted on Wednesday call for a run-off on Aug. 10 in the assistant chief's race between Lewis Johnson of Wewoka and Thomas Yahola of Konawa. The tribe's election code only calls for a run-off in the executive branch offices if no one

candidate earns a majority of the votes cast or if there is a tie between two tribal council candidates.

As per the public notice published on the Seminole Nation's website, the five polling places used for primary election will also be used for the run-off. Absentee ballot requests for the run-off must be returned to the Seminole Nation Election Board by the close of business on July 22. Run-off absentee ballots will automatically be sent to voters who submitted an on-time request for one in the primary election. Unlike the primary election, voters must cast their ballots at their assigned precinct. Polling places include the Sasakwa Community Center in Sasakwa; the Mekuskey Mission's North Community Building near Seminole; the Strother Community Building in Strother; Glorietta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and Haikey Chapel in Tulsa.

In addition to the three referenda and two executive branch offices, each of the tribe's 14 bands had a General Council seat on the July 13 ballot. Incumbents Anthony Conley, Rosanna Jones, David Narcomey, Karen Fullbright, Marilyn Moore, Abraham Farani, Jerilyn Fixico, Ralph Coker and Dewayne Miller were all re-elected to the tribe's legislature. Newly elected council members include Kent Dindy, Nancy Fixico, Sterling Springer, Sena Yesslith and Wayne Shaw.

Seminole Primary Results:

Principal Chief <i>Leonard Harjo (i): 55.97 percent</i> Jeff Harjo: 24.77 percent Joseph Billie: 11.82 percent Thomas McGeisey, Jr.: 7.44 percent	Nurcup Harjo Band council member <i>Marilyn Moore (i): 51.43 percent</i> Richard McCulley: 48.57 percent
Assistant Chief *Lewis Johnson: 41.78 percent *Thomas Yahola: 21.72 percent Kelly Tiger, Jr.: 12.31 percent Rosa Mae Smith: 11.38 percent George Violette: 6.72 percent Franklin McGeisey: 6.1 percent	Ocese Band council member <i>Abraham Farani (i): 29.77 percent</i> Dianna Autaubo: 21.76 percent Cora Osborne: 19.47 percent Alene Miller: 14.89 percent Harry Walker: 14.12 percent
Bruner Band council member <i>Anthony Conley (i): 52 percent</i> LeEtta Osborne: 48 percent	Rewalke Band council member <i>Wayne Shaw: 36.76 percent</i> Nancy Harjo (i): 29.41 percent Natalie Harjo: 25 percent Jonah Harjo (i): 13.95 percent
Ceyvha Band council member <i>Rosanna Jones (i): 52.46 percent</i> John Narcomey: 47.54 percent	Tallahassee Band council member <i>Jerilyn Fixico (i): 42.61 percent</i> Charlie Hill: 32.39 percent Cynthia Hudson: 25 percent
Dosar Barkus Band council member <i>Kent Dindy: 52.5 percent</i> Kevin Hardeman: 47.5 percent	Thomas Palmer Band council member <i>Dewayne Miller (i): 39.66 percent</i> Fannie Harjo: 36.21 percent Tiffany Ahgoom: 24.13 percent
Eufaula Band council member <i>Nancy Fixico: 41.66 percent</i> Ida Gonzalez (i): 33.33 percent Emma Wesley: 25 percent	Tusekia Harjo Band council member <i>Ralph Coker (i): 37.18 percent</i> Cheri Hardeman: 35.9 percent Jane Northcott: 13.68 percent Rosetta Coley: 13.25 percent
Fushuchte Band council member <i>David Narcomey (i): 40.47 percent</i> Kelly Davis: 33.33 percent Timothy Hooper: 26.19 percent	Referendum No. 1 – General council band names <i>Yes: 79.21 percent</i> No: 20.79 percent
Hecete Band council member <i>Sterling Springer: 42.48 percent</i> Patricia Kishetton: 33.63 percent Shyla Earp (i): 23.89 percent	Referendum No. 2 – Judicial jurisdiction <i>Yes: 76.21</i> No: 23.79
Hvtieyivlke Band council member <i>Karen Fullbright (i): 43.43 percent</i> Jimpsey Factor: 29.29 percent Nanette Hazelwood: 27.27 percent	Referendum No. 3 – Taxation authority <i>Yes: 63.67</i> No: 36.33
Mekuskey Band council member <i>Sena Yesslith: 30.99 percent</i> Jennifer Horne: 27.46 percent Eula Doonkeen (i): 22.53 percent Rhonda Fixico: 19.01 percent	* Run-off election

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Choctaw legislative district election results announced

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

DURANT, Okla. – Choctaw Nation voters in two legislative districts went to the polls on July 13. In District No. 9, which consists of Bryan County, incumbent Ted Dosh from Benington defeated challenger Berdie Williams with 55 percent of the votes cast. In District No. 4, which includes Heaven; Spiro; Poteau; and other communities in northern LeFlore County, challenger Delton Cox earned 59.31

percent of the votes cast to defeat incumbent Richard Box. Four additional council seats were originally scheduled for this election cycle, but drew one candidate each. District No. 6 representative Joe Coley from Wilburton, District No. 7 representative Jack Austin from Clayton, District No. 10 representative Anthony Dillard from Caney, and District No. 12 representative James Frazier from Coalgate will each serve a four-year term on the Choctaw Tribal Council. Inauguration is scheduled for Sept. 2.

Ex-Northern Cheyenne leader awaits BIA decision

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – The ousted president of Montana’s Northern Cheyenne tribe is waiting to see whether the Bureau of Indian Affairs signs off on the tribal council’s decision to remove him. The BIA is reviewing the council resolution firing John Robinson and reinstating Darlene Soldier Wolf, who Robinson dismissed over abuse allegations at a home for neglected and abused children. The BIA reviews resolutions to ensure the

language is correct and the constitution followed. Robinson spokesman John Youngbear said Thursday Robinson is hopeful the agency finds Soldier Wolf’s due process was not violated when she was fired and that he will be reinstated. Robinson was having an emergency appendectomy during the council’s July 10 vote. Youngbear says the council refused to let him speak at a meeting this week to protest the decision.

Spirit Lake council appeals chair’s reinstatement

■ Earlier this month, tribal citizens voted 284-145 to recall Roger Yankton in a vote prompted by petitions accusing him of corruption, intimidation and ineffective leadership.

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. (AP) – The Spirit Lake Nation tribal council has appealed a court ruling reinstating embattled chairman Roger Yankton Sr. Yankton returned briefly as chairman on July 17, but opponents obtained an emergency injunction from the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals in Aberdeen, S.D., which declared him out of office, the Grand Forks Herald reported. That effectively restored Leander “Russ” McDonald to the chairmanship until further court proceedings. Until last Wednesday, there had been no process of appeal from the tribal court because Yankton had not renewed a contract with the appeals court in mid-2011. But the tribal council had met earlier Wednesday and voted to renew the tribe’s contract



Roger Yankton

with Northern Plains. Earlier this month, tribal citizens voted 284-145 to recall Yankton in a vote prompted by petitions accusing him of corruption, intimidation and ineffective leadership. McDonald, vice president for academic affairs at Candeska Cikana Community College in Fort Totten, was sworn in as chairman. Yankton won an appeal at tribal court and was sworn in July 17 at a ceremony that concluded with drums and singers performing an honor song as tribal citizens, including many members of Yankton’s extended family, lined up to congratulate him. “That’s what the judicial process is for,” he said before leaving to huddle with other tribal officials. But the newly reinstated appeals court responded almost immediately, issuing

a writ staying the tribal court’s order that favored Yankton and prohibiting any action until a hearing could be held. The tribe has gone through years of upheaval, particularly with its child protection system. The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs took over that system last October after heavy criticism that it was failing to protect vulnerable children on the reservation. The criticism began to mount after the May 2011 slaying of a 6-year-old boy and his 9-year-old sister, who authorities said had been sexually assaulted. In the most recent incident, a St. Michael woman pleaded guilty to felony child abuse and witness tampering in the death of her 2-year-old granddaughter, who authorities say died of a head injury after being pushed down a hill. McDonald, who lost to Yankton in the 2011 election for chairman, was briefly installed as chairman earlier this year by tribal elders. He later agreed with Yankton, however, that tribal law required a petition and a recall assembly.

Chino steps down as Mescalero tribal president

MESCALERO, N.M. (AP) – Fredrick Chino Sr. has resigned as president of southern New Mexico’s Mescalero Apache tribe. The tribe made the announcement Friday

but gave no details as to why Chino submitted his resignation. Chino, a longtime tribal council member, was inaugurated as president in January 2012.

The Alamogordo Daily News reports that in late May, Chino and Vice President Sandra Platero were each placed on paid administrative leave. The tribe said it made the

move as part of a review of tribal activities but that no wrongdoing was alleged. Council Member Alfred La Paz is now serving as acting president. He says at the time Chino

and Platero were put on leave, a number of council members had concerns about the level of communication among the president, vice president and council.

FACEBOOK

Continued from Page 1


have asked for Bureau of Indian Affairs to intervene in what they call a constitutional crisis, with no results. Farmer was arrested July 12, a day before he said he planned to unveil a float at North American Indian Days that would show the Blackfeet people won’t tolerate corrupt leaders. “We promise it will be exciting and make headlines worldwide. And we can tell you we are not planning anything violent or illegal so the (tribal council) will not be able to stop us,” Farmer wrote. Farmer said July 17 there was no float and he was attempting to goad tribal leaders into acting against him. He and a few others were planning to peacefully march in the parade during the annual celebration in Browning, he said

“I didn’t really want to get arrested. I wanted to prove a point that if you speak against these people they will hurt you. And they hurt me. I didn’t know it would be this bad,” he said. Farmer, a student in Great Falls, was arrested while attending a family pig roast in Browning. He said 15 officers showed up at the home to take him away, and only when he arrived at the jail did he learn he was charged with violating Blackfeet Ordinance 67. The ordinance was passed in the 1980s to protect tribal leaders from threats, assaults, intimidation or interference in the course of their duties. In 2009, the ordinance was amended to penalize other acts against council members, including “harassment without merit, the distribution of false or misleading documents or writings, the making of slanderous or libelous statements, false innuendoes or misleading statements meant to harm injure,

discredit or causing the member to be exposed to hatred, ridicule or contempt.” The penalty is a year in jail and a possible \$5,000 fine. Farmer said he was offered a plea agreement Saturday for a nine-month suspended sentence and a \$500 fine, but chief tribal judge Allie Edwards would not sign off on the deal. Instead, the judge ordered a \$5,000 cash bond and sought the names of all the people with whom Farmer was working, he said. He refused and his attorney filed an appeal with the tribe’s appellate court, which transferred the bond so that he only had to pay \$500 to be released. Farmer said he plans to go to trial over the charge, and he predicted his arrest will only draw more support for his cause. “This made us stronger,” he said. “Anybody can beat a corrupt government – it takes numbers.” Tribal councilman Paul McEvers,

one of the five council members suspended or removed in the past year, was charged with the violating the same ordinance nearly a year ago. McEvers’ suspension is only a piece of the political upheaval the tribe has experienced over the last year. Former Councilman Jay St. Goddard and suspended Councilman Jay Wells were recently convicted of holding illegal big-game hunts on the reservation for country musicians being filmed for an outdoors television show. Another suspended councilmember, Cheryl Little Dog, is suing for her reinstatement. Current Councilman Shannon Augare on Tuesday pleaded not guilty to DUI, reckless driving and endangering a peace officer over allegations that he fled a Glacier County sheriff’s deputy who pulled him over for drunken driving.

NATIVE American TIMES



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Navajos approve lease extension for power plant

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP) – The Navajo Nation Council has approved a lease extension for a northern Arizona coal-fired power plant that sends water to the state’s biggest cities.

The council voted 16-6 in favor of the legislation during its session late Thursday.

Under the measure, the lease for the Navajo Generating Station near Page would expire in 2044. The agreement boosts yearly payments to the Navajo Nation from \$3 million to \$43 million.

Supporters say extending the lease preserves jobs and revenue to the tribe. It also keeps the coal mine that feeds the plant in operation.

The electricity generated by the plant delivers water to Arizona’s most populated areas through a series of canals and ensures water rights settlements with American Indian tribes are met.

Salt River Project, which operates the plant, said Friday it was thankful the council extended the lease.

“We are currently

reviewing the amendments that were included in the final vote, but the initial indication is the amendments are acceptable,” said Mike Hummel, the utility’s chief power system executive.

The legislation was one of the keys to ensuring the plant keeps running beyond 2019, when the existing lease is scheduled to expire. The other challenge has been pressure from federal environmental regulators to curb pollution from the plant.

Regulators OK proposed pipeline expansion

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) – The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously approved plans last Wednesday by Enbridge Energy to boost the capacity of its oil pipeline in the state.

Environmental and Native American protesters showed up to voice their opposition to the plan, which would enable the company to move more crude oil from the tar sands region of Alberta to the U.S.

The Minnesota Commerce Department, which reviews energy projects, supported the upgrade, saying it would ensure “a continued, reliable cost-effective supply” of crude oil to Minnesota and the region.

If the pipeline isn’t built, the department projected that a likely alternative – shipping crude by railroad – would require 7,000 tank cars traveling through the state.

The PUC voted that the project is needed, citing its favorable economics, the Star Tribune reported.

“There is no need for this pipeline,” John Munter, who lives with his family in Warba, about four miles from the Enbridge line. Munter stood outside the PUC’s offices with a sign that said, “No Tar Sands Genocide.”

Many of the roughly 50 protesters wanted to address the commission, but it declined to take additional testimony. The commission held two public hearings about the matter earlier this year, and did not address environmental concerns.

The protesters included activists from MN350.org, a climate change advocacy group, and Honor the Earth, a group led by Winona LaDuke of the White Earth Indian

Reservation in Minnesota.

Separately, the U.S. State Department is conducting an environmental review of the Enbridge expansion plan because the project also requires a presidential permit to expand oil shipments across the border.

The Minnesota project is part of a plan by Enbridge to upgrade pipelines in the U.S. and Canada to ship more Canadian oil to the Midwest and beyond.

Enbridge intends to spend \$40 million to upgrade three Minnesota pumping stations, at Viking, Clearbrook and Deer River. That would allow the stations to push 27 percent more oil through the 3-foot-wide Alberta Clipper pipeline, which runs 1,000 miles from Hardisty, Alberta, to Superior, Wis.

With the upgrade, the pipeline could carry 570,000 barrels per day. Enbridge officials hope to begin construction of the larger pumps next month.

Climate change activists have been campaigning against Canada-to-U.S. pipelines, hoping that stopping them will slow or halt production in northern Alberta. The Natural Resources Defense Council says producing oil from tar sands releases three times more greenhouse gases than conventional oil production. The oil industry disputes those claims.

Protesters were disappointed but not surprised by the PUC decision.

“Our goal is to keep tar sands crude in the ground,” said Tom McSteen of MN350.org, which now plans to press the environmental case with the State Department.

VOTING

Continued from Page 1

Democrats control the presidency and the Senate, while Republicans have the House majority.

More broadly, the Voting Rights Act hearings this week in the Senate and, on Thursday, in the House, come at a tense time for race relations. The nation is grappling with the acquittal this week of George Zimmerman in the shooting of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin. President Barack Obama, the country’s first black president, has reacted cautiously to the Florida jury’s verdict.

And politically, Republicans are struggling through immigration in their

bid to appeal to Hispanics and other voters who turned out overwhelmingly for Democrats in last year’s elections. So rewriting a part of the Voting Rights act is sensitive for the GOP.

The high court put race relations squarely in Congress’ hands last month when the justices ruled 5-4 to strike as outdated a 1975 formula that determines which districts are required to get Washington’s permission to change their voting practices. The ruling gutted the key provision of the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act, credited with ensuring ballot access to millions of black Americans, American Indians and other minorities. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that Congress has an opportunity to retool the law’s so-called preclearance sections

that give the U.S. Justice Department veto power over local election changes.

Sensenbrenner, who as House Judiciary Committee chairman led the 2006 extension of the law, Lewis and other lawmakers reacted angrily immediately after last month’s ruling and urged Congress to quickly update the language struck down by the court. But some Republicans, like House Speaker John Boehner, have been noncommittal. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., has pledged to hold a hearing on Thursday but has not said whether he’d support the legislation Sensenbrenner and Lewis are urging.

“They need to see a draft,” Sensenbrenner said of other Republicans who have not urged legislation.



FILE

Veronica Brown has been living with her father, Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown, near Nowata, Okla. for more than 18 months now.

CHILD

Continued from Page 1

Supreme Court remanded the case back to the South Carolina Supreme Court, claiming the Indian Child Welfare Act did not apply to the proceedings, due to Brown’s lack of involvement and financial support during the birth mother’s pregnancy. Under South Carolina law, Brown forfeited his parental rights when he did not provide financial support for the biological mother for the duration of her pregnancy or take steps to establish his paternity immediately after the child’s birth. Brown’s attorneys maintain that he did not know when the child was born until he was served with adoption papers near Fort Sill, Okla., four months after her birth.

“The Supreme Court has articulated the federal standard, and its application to this case is clear: the ICWA does not authorize Birth Father’s retention of custody,” Chief Justice Jean Toal wrote in the majority opinion. “Therefore, we reject Birth

Father’s argument that ... placement preferences could be an alternative basis for denying the Adoptive Couple’s adoption petition.”

Brown was given five days to appeal and has reached out to Oklahoma’s Congressional delegation for support to help prevent his daughter’s removal to South Carolina. Through a Cherokee Nation spokeswoman, Brown issued the following statement Thursday afternoon:

“We are outraged that the South Carolina Supreme Court would order the adoption of our child finalized without a proper hearing to determine what is in Veronica’s best interests. This child has been back with her family for 19 months and to tear her away from us, the family she loves and the only family she knows or remembers, would be devastating to her.

“This is an Oklahoma child and her placement should not be considered by a court in South Carolina. We have contacted our U.S. Senator and encourage each of you to do the same, in order

to help us keep Veronica in her home, which is a safe, loving and nurturing environment. We will never give up the fight to raise our daughter.”

The South Carolina Supreme Court’s ruling sparked similar responses from several organizations across Indian Country, including the National Indian Child Welfare Association, which helped coordinate a National Day of Prayer in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling.

“While the Indian Child Welfare Act was not overturned and still stands as law, the decision by the South Carolina Supreme Court yesterday sends a chilling message,” NICWA spokeswoman Nicole Adams said Thursday. “Like other Americans, American Indians rely on the integrity of the judicial system to protect our children. Now our faith in that system is shaken. Since the earliest contact, non-Indians have seen fit to take whatever they covet from Indian people. The sad truth is that this decision is one more chapter in that shameful history.”

NCAI disappointed by SC court’s order

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – An American Indian group is expressing disappointment in a South Carolina court’s decision to return a girl to the Charleston-area couple seeking to adopt her.

The National Congress of American Indians said Thursday that removing the now-3-year-old girl from her home in Oklahoma would be traumatic.

With the backing of the U.S. Supreme Court, the South Carolina Supreme Court

on Wednesday ordered that a Family Court finalize the girl’s adoption by Matt and Melanie Capobianco.

The girl named Veronica has been living in Oklahoma since 2011 when South Carolina justices originally said a federal law favored her being raised by her biological father, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation.

Through his attorney, Dusten Brown says he is devastated by the court’s decision.

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Plasticulture grant funds available

A program directed toward small, limited resource producers wanting to expand specialty crop production is offering grants and up to one acre of plasticulture installation. Applications to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) must be postmarked by August 5, 2013.

Plasticulture implements the use of plastic in gardens and can help with weed control, water erosion, nutrient leaching and compaction. The use of raised beds covered in plastic can increase plant and product quality and bring greater yields. Each bed includes a drip irrigation line under the plastic covering to supply water and fertilizer.

Limited resource producers are defined as having direct or indirect gross farm sales of not more than \$100,000 in each of the previous two years and receiving little or no assistance from the government.

The program emphasizes

marketing and requires a three year commitment as funds are provided in increments of a maximum of \$500 each year. Micah Anderson, ODAFF Plasticulture Coordinator, said applicants will be evaluated based on experience, marketing plans and application date.

Farmers selected for the program supply water and soil testing, plants and soil preparation in addition to production reports. ODAFF will provide plastic, drip tape and shut-off valves.

Grant funds may be used for soil and water testing, animal depredation control, wildlife fencing, fertilizer, scales, and plants. The plasticulture grant program currently has \$17,000 available.

For additional information and grant forms contact Ashley Bender at (405) 522-4330. Application forms are also available online at www.oda.state.ok.us/mktdev-plast.htm.

Wyandotte Nation to open Sonic in Seneca

WILLIAM SWAIM
Wyandotte Nation Media Release

SENECA, Mo. – The Wyandotte Nation is bringing a Sonic Drive-In to Seneca, Mo., as part of the Tribe's ongoing push for economic diversification.

“The opportunity to put a Sonic Drive-In in Seneca that will serve surrounding communities is really enticing to us,” said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma CEO Kelly Carpino. Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), the Wyandotte Nation's federally chartered corporation, drives economic development for the Tribe. “It brings something to the area that we think is needed, and gives a boost to these local economies.”

The expected completion date for the Sonic Drive-In, located on Hwy 43 and just off of Hwy 60, is the beginning of October. Construction documents

for the project have gone out to bid. Bids are due back by July 29 for review and a groundbreaking ceremony will be held shortly after a contractor is selected.

Carpino said the Sonic will have a modern layout with 21 stalls and a drive through. She said it will bring 30-35 full and part-time jobs to the area.

She said the Tribe had been exploring franchise opportunities to continue to grow its business interests.

“It creates another direction, another diversified enterprise for the Wyandotte Nation,” Carpino said. “We're excited about that. It gives us a lot of growth opportunity to potentially develop additional restaurants in the future.”

The WTOK business enterprises include telecommunications, IT, food service, precision manufacturing and the entertainment industry. The Tribe's economic development supports various programs for

tribal citizens, including healthcare, housing, and education programs.

“We have looked at several concepts. What eventually brought us to Sonic was the opportunity to become part of a very recognizable brand,” Carpino said. “The effectiveness of Sonic's media and promotional strategy along with an amazing product line drew our attention to the Sonic franchise. The decision was solidified by Sonic's new small building prototype that is a perfect fit for smaller, secondary markets within Sonic's core.”

Carpino said the Wyandotte Nation likes the idea of locating in smaller communities, such as Seneca, making Sonic a great choice.

“The Wyandotte Nation really likes to be a supporter of the local communities. If we can do things to benefit those communities, that is an added bonus for us,” she said.

WATER

Continued from Page 1

solution, so you don't try to put a time frame on anything you're trying to do long term,” McClain said.

The tribes filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City in 2011 that sought an injunction to bar the state and Oklahoma City from transporting water from Sardis Lake in southeastern Oklahoma to the state's largest city.

A spokesman for Gov. Mary Fallin confirmed Wednesday that active negotiations are taking place between the state and the tribes.

“The governor is optimistic these negotiations are moving in the right direction and will result in a resolution that is fair to all Oklahomans,” said Fallin spokesman Alex Weintz.

Weintz said former Secretary of State Glenn Coffee, who was hired Wednesday to be the general counsel for business and industry group The State Chamber, will continue to represent Fallin in negotiations with the tribes, along with the attorney general's office, which represents the state.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built Sardis Lake, which straddles Latimer and Pushmataha counties in a southeast Oklahoma region from where Oklahoma City has received water in the past. The tribes allege they have been excluded from negotiations between the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma City Water Utility Trust in spite of the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek that they claim gives them authority over water resources in their jurisdictions.

State officials maintain that other treaties must also be considered, including one signed by the tribes in 1866 that they claim relinquished tribal rights following the tribes' revolt against the United States during the Civil War.

PRESS

Continued from Page 1

By contacting the hotline, NAJA members without current legal representation seeking assistance with pre-publication issues or freedom of information requests can receive free legal advice from attorneys. The organization is also launching a free online legal resource room later this year that will offer articles, links and material highlighting issues such as freedom of information, defamation, broadband regulation, privacy, protection of sacred knowledge and sites, as well as other media-related issues at no charge to any journalist covering Indian Country.

The hotline's intake liaison, research fellow and University of Arizona assistant professor of journalism Kevin R. Kemper, says that although more tribes are including First Amendment protections in their constitutions and more freedoms are being afforded to reporters, there is still work left to be done when it



Kevin R Kemper

comes to transparency and press independence.

“Tribal law says one thing, but tribal leaders sometimes do another thing, which is why we need a free press to call them out on it,” Kemper said.

A lay advocate in the Pascua Yaqui tribal court system, Kemper is not licensed to practice law in a state jurisdiction but conducts research in media law, including the legal aspects of being a journalist in Indian Country.

Despite the advances in press access, such as the implementation and enforcement of tribal Sunshine laws, he sees many of the access issues being better solved through media outlets earning complete

financial independence from the tribes they serve or by more peaceful, less expensive methods, including mediation.

“That's how we're going to get greater free press access – through healing and forgiveness – rather than everyone fighting,” Kemper said. “We need to build bridges between reporters and tribal leaders. It's been almost 200 years (since the



Bryan Pollard

publication of the first tribal newspaper) and you're telling me we're having some of the same stupid problems?”

That first tribal newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix, is still in circulation and publishes a monthly edition from the tribe's

headquarters in Tahlequah, Okla. Its executive editor, Bryan Pollard, maintains that a newspaper's revenue source does not dictate what documents it can legally access.

“The argument on its face is ridiculous,” he said. “To say that a journalism organization does not represent the needs of the public is silly.”

Like the Osage Nation, the Cherokee Nation has an Independent Press Act and codified Sunshine laws, including what is thought to potentially be the first shield law in Indian Country, protecting journalists from naming a story's sources in tribal court. Similar to the Osage News, the Cherokee Phoenix also receives government funding to cover its operational costs, with about 70 percent of the newspaper's budget coming from the tribe. However, Pollard said money has not been listed as a reason to deny one of his reporter's records requests.

“We've only been denied on a handful of requests that we've submitted in the last two years,” he

said. “Typically, when we are denied a request, the administration will respond citing the section of the FOIA that exempts them from responding in whatever way. Although we've been declined on a few occasions, the reason for the decline is stated.”

Arguments resume in the Osage News' lawsuit on Aug. 8. In the interim, Pollard and many other tribal reporters are left to ponder whether Red Eagle's argument would carry any weight with their own tribal court.

“At Cherokee Nation, frankly, I'm not sure that that type of argument would have much traction,” Pollard said. “The Cherokee Phoenix has a long history of representing the people's need for information from their government. I think that if the administration were to go before our courts and say ‘We pay them, so we don't need to give them information,’ the political consequences would outweigh whatever the legal remedy would be. I think there would be a public outcry over something like that.”

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Author convicted in Ariz. sweat lodge deaths freed

■ **Nothing in his conditions of release prohibits James Arthur from holding self-help seminars or conducting another sweat lodge ceremony.**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – An author who saw his self-help business crash after he led a sweat lodge ceremony that left three people dead was paroled from prison on July 12 after serving nearly two years for negligent homicide convictions.

James Arthur Ray, 55, was freed from the state prison in Buckeye, near Phoenix. Nothing in his conditions of release prohibits him from holding self-help seminars or conducting another sweat lodge ceremony, but his brother said Ray has no immediate plans to resurrect his business.

However, Jon Ray didn't rule out the possibility in the future, maintaining the deaths weren't his brother's fault.

"At this point, he wants to get out and hide out, and start putting his life back together, which has been completely turned upside down," he told The Associated Press. "I say that with all due respect because I know a lot of people's lives have been turned upside down because of this unfortunate incident."

The tragedy occurred after dozens of people traveled to a scenic retreat just outside Sedona in October 2009 for James Arthur Ray's five-day "Spiritual Warrior" event.

The sweat lodge was the culminating event, touted as "hellacious hot" and a chance for participants to have powerful breakthroughs.

Things started going wrong about halfway through the two-hour ceremony. When it was over, 38-year-old Kirby Brown of Westtown, N.Y., and 40-year-old James Shore of Milwaukee were dead, and 18 others injured.

Liz Neuman, 49, of Prior Lake, Minn., slipped into a coma and died after more than a week in the hospital.

At trial, prosecutors said Ray ratcheted up the heat to dangerous levels, ignored pleas for help and watched as overcome participants were dragged out of the sweat lodge.

A jury acquitted him of more serious manslaughter charges and convicted him of negligent homicide. He served 85 percent of the concurrent two-year terms for each of the deaths. Ray has appealed the convictions,



James Arthur Ray

COURTESY

possibility that toxins or poisons contributed to the deaths.

None of the victims' families believes that 20 months was a sufficient sentence. They have said they would rather not see Ray in the self-help industry, or he should at least be more accountable for his actions.

Members of Neuman's family meet regularly to talk about her, share memories and vent feelings of frustration and anger — a lot of which is aimed at Ray, said her daughter, Andrea Puckett. The birth of Puckett's two children and her brother's wedding are among the events made bittersweet by the loss of Neuman, she said.

"Ideally, we don't want him (Ray) doing anything in the industry anymore," Puckett said. "I don't think he has the right to work with people. If he does move forward with that, I hope people become aware of what he did and he changes the way that he handles his seminars and his teachings."



Kirby Brown of Westtown, N.Y., died in 2009 in a sweat lodge run by James Arthur Ray, who has been released from prison. Her parents launched a foundation to educate people about the self-help industry.

COURTESY

alleging that errors by the prosecution tainted the case.

Ray has acknowledged that he was responsible for the deaths but offered no excuses for his lack of action as the chaos unfolded at the sweat lodge. He and his attorneys said Ray would have stopped the ceremony had he known people were dying or in distress.

The defense centered its case on the

Brown's mother, Virginia, has quit her full-time job to focus on the nonprofit group called SEEK Safely that the family formed to help others avoid such a tragedy. This week, she was busy reaching out to people in the self-help industry asking them to commit to basic standards to ensure practitioners are truthful, act with integrity, and respect the people who choose to follow them — something she said Ray failed to do.

"While he was in jail, there was a feeling of safety somehow," she said. "Now that he's coming out, I'm not planning on keeping track of his activities."

One of Shore's best friends, Matt Collins, is on the board of directors for SEEK Safely. He expects that Ray will find a way to continue his teachings but doesn't want to see him profit from tragedy.

"Being in prison is probably a good place to reinvent oneself, hopefully for the better," he said. "I don't know whether he's capable of recognizing the damage that the families suffered."

Jon Ray and his wife, who have visited James Arthur Ray in prison over the past 20 months, greeted him Friday as he was released. James Arthur Ray changed clothes in a shed on the prison grounds and jumped in a sedan that drove past a dozen journalists.

While in Arizona for the next few months, Ray must check in with a parole officer and get permission to leave the state. He also cannot drink alcohol or have deadly weapons.

While Ray has no intention of moving back into public seminars, Jon Ray said his brother is "definitely wanting to help people like he's always done."

James Ray declined interview requests from The Associated Press.

His website has been undergoing renovations for months and still features coverage of the deaths and his trial. It also prominently showcases his television appearances on Oprah and Larry King and his best-selling book.

Postings on his Facebook page show he hasn't lost all support.

Tom Thomas, a poker player from Amarillo, Texas, who was supposed to be at the 2009 "Spiritual Warrior" event, believes Ray can make a comeback.

"I'd still recommend him today, the man teaches the truth," Thomas said. "He really teaches what works, he knows what he's teaching, and it's real. I'll never take that away from him."

None of the victims' families believes that 20 months was a sufficient sentence. They have said they would rather not see Ray in the self-help industry, or he should at least be more accountable for his actions.



EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.**

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH JULY 28
Inaugural Pani Star Native American Art Show, Berry Building, 657 Harrison, Pawnee. Information call Rebekah Horsechief 918-762-3227, ext. 22 or Austin RealRider 918-399-5470.

JULY 18-21
Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment at the Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds, 7500 Hwy 177, Red Rock. Includes gourd dancing, a 5K run and contest dancing. Free and open to the public. Event times vary. Contact Heather Payne, 580-723-4466.

JULY 19-21
Comanche Homecoming Powwow at Sultan Park, 129 E Colorado St, Walters. Categories of dance competition will include gourd, cloth, buckskin, straight, fancy and more. Contact 580-492-3240.

JULY 26-28
Tulsa Powwow hosted by Tulsa Indian Club at Spirit Bank Center, 10411 S Regal Blvd., Tulsa. All adult contests and tiny tots. Info call Kelly Anquoe 918-703-1734 or visit tulsapowwow.org

JULY 26-28
44th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow at 193rd & Javine Hill Road, Skiatook. 6:30pm-close.

Contact Donna Phillips, 918-381-7996, dkphillips2002@gmail.com.

JULY 26-28
63rd Annual Indian Hills Powwow at 9300 North Sooner Road, Oklahoma City. 8am-close. Contact Berdina Kodasset, 405-201-1283.

JULY 28-AUGUST 1
Indian Falls Creek. Registration fees: 6 years and younger: \$15. 7 years and older: \$55. For more information: visit www.indian-falls-creek.net , or Victor Cope, Exec. Director, ndnrev@aol.com or 405-395-4226.

JULY 30
Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4
Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 9-11
Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa Hosts the 36th Annual POW WOW OF CHAMPIONS ORU MABEE CENTER, 7777 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa. More info, www.iicot.org

AUGUST 10
Indian Taco Sale. 11:00am-2:30pm. OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. For more information: 405-681-0869.

AUGUST 15-18
Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public.

2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2
Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Eufaula Indian Community 17th Annual Labor Day Pow-wow & Homecoming at Eastside Ballpark on Lake Eufaula 7:00pm Grand Entry, Free Admission, Dance competitions, arts and crafts, food vendors, outdoor camping and a Alzheimer's Memorial Walk. Contact JayDee Tiger, EIC Pow-wow Chairperson (918)707-0361

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1
Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah. www.cherokeetourismok.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1
Ottawa Powwow & Celebration at Adawe Park, 11400 S 613 Rd, Miami. Free and open to the public. Friday 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-midnight. Contact Craig Satepauhoodle, 918-542-1536.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Intertribal Powwow, Lake Shawnee, Topeka, KS. Dance specials. Admission \$8 or \$6 in advance. Info: www.shawneecountyalliedtribes.org

SEPTEMBER 6-8
Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow at Wyandotte Nation Tribal Grounds, E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte. Grand entries Friday 8pm, Sat 1:30pm & 7pm, Sun 1:30pm. Contact Sherri Clemons, 918-678-2297.

SEPTEMBER 12-14
Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville. Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15
Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida, Wyandotte. Events held all day. Contact Kenna Simmons, 918-666-2435.

SEPTEMBER 27-28
Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.


SEPTEMBER 28
The Chickasaw Annual Meeting Various Locations, Tishomingo. Phone: 580-371-2040 Toll Free: 800-593-3356

OCTOBER 19
Pryor Wellbriety Powwow, Mid-American Expo Center, Pryor (four miles south of Pryor). Gourd dancing at 2pm & 5pm. Grand Entry at 6pm. Free admission. Info call Mary Hayes, 918-698-0583. All Drums Welcome!

NOVEMBER 29-30
Choctaw Nation Powwow, Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant. Add some wow to your weekend! Embrace the sights, sounds and culture of the Native American People with arts and crafts, authentic food and a must-see dance competition. Whether you come to compete or to take it all in, it's sure to be a rewarding weekend. For more info visit www.choctawcasinos.com.

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American Indian artist takes modern view

SARA SHEPHERD
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) – Jodi Webster’s art seeks to portray American Indians in a way she says can be hard to find: the way they really are.

Indians aren’t always standing in a field in full ceremonial regalia. And they definitely aren’t running around with their hands in front of their mouths yelling, “woo, woo, woo, woo, woo.”

Webster’s Indians live in cities, wear sports jerseys and are involved in economic development and, sometimes, environmental controversy.

“This is who I am,” she says. “And this is just a way of showing you all this diversity that’s in these tribes.”

Webster, a Lawrence resident who expects to graduate from the University of Kansas this fall with a bachelor’s degree in drawing and painting, is starting to get some traction in the Indian art world, highlighted by an upcoming artist’s residency at the Santa Fe Indian Market, the Lawrence Journal-World reports.

More than 150,000 visitors and hundreds of artists are expected to attend the annual market, organized by Southwestern Association for Indian Arts. Webster, one of two artists chosen for residency fellowships, will spend August and September in Santa Fe interacting with and learning from other artists while pursuing her own work.

Especially for an artist who usually creates at her kitchen table – when she can get her husband, two kids and pet Chihuahua out of the way – the residency is a welcome opportunity.

Webster, a Ho-Chunk and Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian, grew up in Wisconsin, homeland of the woodland Ho-Chunk people.

While most of the other Indians there lived in the country, Webster’s family was one of only a handful living in town, Wisconsin Rapids. Her family was poor, she says, and racism was prevalent – she remembers white kids taunting her with those “ugly” woo, woo, woos.

“The art was one of the things I could kind

of revert to, because it doesn’t take a lot of money to create my artwork,” she says. “It was a really good escape, a good way to center myself.”

Some of Webster’s pieces are more serious than others.

A small, multi-colored screen print titled “I’m Not That Kind of Indian” depicts a woman in traditional – and accurate – Ho-Chunk dress surrounded by feather-headress-wearing, woo-woo-ing cartoon characters. She loved cartoons as a child, and still does, but remembers the sting of seeing the characters she was so fond of making fun of her heritage. In another piece, she comments on a planned mining operation by showing Indians harvesting wild rice in the traditional way while wearing gas masks.

Some juxtapose old with new in a lighthearted way.

A pair of portraits show her children – son Wabansi, 13, and daughter Shyla, 7 – in city settings with part traditional, part urban clothing. In “Bozho Kitty,” a smiling Shyla wears a traditional Ho-Chunk appliquéd skirt with a bright-pink Hello Kitty T-shirt. In “Wabansi: Lakeside Chicago-Beyond Swag,” her son wears a Chicago Bulls jersey with Potawatomi leggings and a traditional decorative bandolier bag.

Some of Webster’s work is less of a statement and more of an embrace; she’s especially passionate about the bright colors in traditional costumes.

“Fancy Dancer,” a stylized dancing figure repeated in different colors, captures the traditional garb’s vibrant colors and the stamina it takes to perform in hot sun and heavy costumes.

John Torres Nez, chief operating officer of the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, says the 92-year-old Indian Market traditionally has focused on Southwestern art. Leaders are now trying to diversify and attract artists like Webster from other regions.

“They bring an aesthetic that is different from the Southwest,” he says.

Torres Nez says the residency, a partnership with the Santa Fe Art Institute, enables artists to focus on their work, interact with other artists and soak in Santa Fe’s rich art culture with an extended stay in a city that could



COURTESY PHOTO
Bedre’ Fine Chocolate is located at the southwest corner of Interstate-35 at Exit 55 at 35 N. Colbert Road in Davis, Okla. It’s adjacent to the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center.

otherwise be cost-prohibitive.

After the residency and finishing her undergraduate degree, Webster says, she’d like to pursue a master’s. Her goal is to continue making art that helps celebrate her

people and break stereotypes.

“It’s important for me ... to show my children that if I’m really into something, if I’m talented, to take that as far as I can,” she says.

Program making a difference

CHRISSEY SHEPARD

DURANT, Okla. – “The definition of ‘posse’ is a group of people who come together for a common goal,” explained Paula Harp, director of the Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) program and the Making a Difference program at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Harp smiled as she described just what the POSSE program does for the youth of Durant and the surrounding area. It is evident the name given to the program is an appropriate fit.

“The main goal of the Partnership of Summer School Education program is to provide academic remediation to students in grades pre-k through second grade,” stated Harp. “It is the goal of the Choctaw Nation to provide a culturally enriched, safe and positive atmosphere for the students that participate in the summer school program.”

POSSE is available for eligible children pre-k through second grade, who attend school Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. as well as the “Jump Start to Kindergarten” group of students, who attend class Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. It is a seven-week-long program, held at Washington Irving Elementary School in Durant, which began June 3 and will end July 25.

The selection of students to be accepted into POSSE is based on teacher recommendation and test scores; Choctaw tribal membership is not required. If the student is having trouble with reading or math during the school year, the teacher will suggest to Harp they need to be admitted into the summer school program.

Harp continued illustrating the goals of POSSE by listing examples of how the staff and educators conduct themselves: they work to inspire and empower the students; build on the strengths of the community; applaud students’ achievements; expand resources; work with communities, schools and organizations in the geographic service area; and plan, implement,

expand, coordinate and evaluate the program itself.

According to Harp, the program has several objectives. The children will grow academically through remediation in reading and math; grow socially through cultural services provided; develop emotionally through the afternoon educational activities; feel safe and secure while being supervised by a competent and caring staff; and benefit in a positive manner as they are taught caring and cooperative attitudes.

“We currently have 184 students enrolled in the summer school,” said Harp.

Harp works closely with Durant School administration and staff to develop the curriculum for the summer school, in which she has an advantage because of her background. “Since I am a former teacher, it helps me a lot, because I know what the school day is like,” and since Harp was once a teacher from Durant ISD, the teachers she is now working with are some of her good friends. “We have a great working relationship; we just kind of know what the other is thinking and what we need to do.”

The Choctaw Nation helps with funding POSSE, providing the school with half of the needed funds. While the Nation provides funding for teachers’ salaries and supplies throughout the seven weeks, Durant ISD provides all other expenses, such as bus drivers’ salaries, bus fuel, air conditioning in the building, summer lunch program, etc.

Harp said Durant Public Schools usually accept around 300 children into kindergarten each year with about 100 of these students who have never gone to school. She described the program as being an exceptional program for children who have never experienced a school environment but are about to enter kindergarten. “Some kids, when they start kindergarten, have never been to school (pre-k) before,” she said, because it is not required. “They may or may not have been taught their alphabet, how to tie their shoes, etc.” During

the seven-week period of Jump Start to Kindergarten, those areas are covered, she said. “We teach them quite a few things, so that when school starts, they are ready to go.”

Locating these children throughout the Durant area for Jump Start to Kindergarten proved to be a daunting but rewarding task. “We visited all the Head Starts and the Durant schools and found names for all Choctaw children who fit the age group,” explained Harp.

“The education department employees visited the homes of Choctaw children in the Durant school district and found Choctaw children who are going into kindergarten but have not been through pre-k,” said Harp. “We did it in one afternoon, each of us had a certain number of students to find, and we just went out and did it. It was a great group effort.”

To find children who are not Choctaw members for the Jump Start to Kindergarten program, Harp’s department organized a city-wide mail out. “We were trying to get the word out, whatever it took, we did it,” she said.

When it comes to the future of POSSE, promising plans are being made to expand the service area of the program. According to Harp, next year, the additional seven Bryan County schools will be added to the program: Achille, Caddo, Calera, Silo, Bennington, Colbert and Rock Creek Public Schools.

By the end of August, the schools are to tell her where the site of the summer school is going to be and who will serve as administrator.

“We’re not in the business of running schools, they’re the experts,” said Harp. “We are just helping to fund the extra expense.”

Harp said the success of the program with the Bryan County schools next summer will determine whether or not expansion into the 10 ½ counties will occur in 2015.

There are 85 schools that are either pre-k through eighth grade or pre-k through 12th grade in the 10 ½ county service area of the

Choctaw Nation. “We’ve visited with every single one of them now, and they know what we’re going to do. They’ll have a choice,” said Harp. “Some schools may already have a summer school program,” she continued, “but the Choctaw Nation will help with funding if they choose to be a part of the program.”

Harp said they have also spoken to other Native American tribes about starting a similar summer school program in their area. “We’re hoping the whole state will get on board, and then we can really see a change in education in southeast Oklahoma.”

The curriculum chosen for the POSSE students seems to be making an impact by providing various activities to stimulate their minds. This year’s summer school theme is “The Great Outdoor Adventure,” said Harp.

The first two weeks of summer school had a camping theme, the next two weeks an aerospace theme and the last three weeks a Native American theme, in which Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle visited the students and provided each child with their own book.

“Each grade level has a book,” said Harp. At the end of each theme period, the students were allowed to take their books home with them.

Harp said the children take a field trip every week as well.

“They really made an impression,” Harp said of the field trip the children attended at the Choctaw Nation Recycling Center. She laughed as she told how the parents were telling her their kids came home saying, “don’t waste water,” telling them how to recycle at home, turn the lights out and clean up the environment.

While POSSE focuses on younger students, the Making a Difference program’s goal is to help Choctaw students, grades nine through 12, graduate high school and have a next step after graduation, whether that is college, a trade school, the military or going right into the workforce.

“We go to the 63 high schools

in the 10 ½ counties and visit with students who are Choctaw,” said Harp. “We are trying to make sure that they graduate high school, which is our first goal.”

Once the student graduates high school, it is the Making a Difference program’s job to help them decide what is next.

The program will be two years old in July, said Harp, and has the potential to reach 4,000 students.

If a student is a participant in Making a Difference, they will have the opportunity to visit college campuses if they wish to do so. “We encourage them to attend college, but we don’t force them,” said Harp, who also encourages students to attend military academies or two-year schools.

Harp said the program has come a long way the past two years in terms of research. “When we first started, this was all pencil and paper. By the time we visited the school, a student could have missed 10 days of school; since we didn’t even know, we could not help,” she explained.

According to Harp, the students are the top priority for Making a Difference. “It is the most rewarding job I have ever had,” she said. “We may be the resource that helps that student. We hope the parents and students will call us to help answer their questions.”

The program gets a multitude of calls, said Harp, whether it is a parent, grandparent, school counselor, superintendent or teacher.

There is no deadline for joining Making a Difference. Harp said they accept applications every day, but believes it is more beneficial for the student to sign up as a freshman rather than a senior.

From children in pre-k to graduating seniors in high school entering college or the workforce, the Choctaw Nation shows the priority it places on education of its tribal members and the community through POSSE and the Making a Difference Program.

If you’d like to learn more about these programs, contact Paula Harp at 580-924-8280 ext. 2452.

- Inside this issue:
- 94-year-old chief looks back on full life
 - Actor Wes Studi arrested for DUI
 - Delaware Tribe purchases Kansas property



NATIVE TIMES



Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, tribes can only conduct gaming on trust property within its jurisdictional area. The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians has been operating a gaming property within the bounds of the Cherokee Nation since 1986.

Cherokees file to block UKB land-into-trust application

■ As part of a 2012 settlement between the UKB and the state of Oklahoma, the tribe's casino property must be in trust by July 31 or the casino will be shut down.

LENZY KREBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The Cherokee Nation filed a request for an injunction July 23 against the Department of the Interior and

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn in an effort to block another tribe's attempt to place land into trust. Like the Cherokee Nation, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians is headquartered in Tahlequah and operates a casino within the city limits. Earlier this month, Cherokee Nation was notified the BIA would proceed with the UKB's application to place the casino's 2.03-acre parcel of land into trust, prompting the Cherokee Nation to file the injunction request in the Northern District of Oklahoma. "The attempt by the BIA to place

land into trust for another tribe or band of Indians in our jurisdiction is contrary to law, and we intend to prove that in court," Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree said. "The Cherokee Nation will do everything in its power to preserve the integrity of our sovereignty." As part of a 2012 settlement between the UKB and the state of Oklahoma, the land must be in trust by July 31 or the casino will be shut down. According to a release from the Cherokee Nation, the UKB's application will be expedited in

See UKB on Page 4

Ex-leader of Conn. casino tribe convicted of theft

JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) – A former chairman of the tribe that owns Connecticut's Foxwoods Resort Casino was convicted Wednesday of embezzling about \$100,000 from his Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to pay for limousine service trips for his mother and satellite radio, cable TV and other personal expenses for himself.

A federal jury in New Haven deliberated less than two hours before finding Michael Thomas guilty of three theft charges. Thomas' "fraudulent expenses continued even after they were discovered and he was told to stop," said acting U.S. Attorney Deirdre Daly. "The U.S. Attorney's office is committed to prosecuting corrupt officials at all levels of government –

See THEFT on Page 4



Prior to the 2008 opening of the Quapaw Tribe's Downstream Casino, the Cherokee County Kansas Board of Commissioners filed suit to halt construction on the property.

Suit against DOI over Quapaw casino dismissed

LENZY KREBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

WASHINGTON – A federal district court dismissed a Kansas county's lawsuit July 25 against Sally Jewell and the Department of the Interior over an Oklahoma tribe's casino. Prior to the 2008 opening

of the Quapaw Tribe's Downstream Casino near Quapaw, Okla., the Cherokee County, Kan., Board of Commissioners filed suit against the federal government, claiming the standard environmental assessments and land-into-trust procedures were not

See QUAPAW on Page 5



FILE Jimmy Deer, second chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Greenleaf Ceremonial Grounds (left) and Frank Coachman, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative for the Okfuskee District hold signs protesting the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' casino expansion on Tuesday, Sept. 18 outside the federal building in downtown Tulsa.

Protested Poarch Creek casino expansion nearing completion

MATT OKARMUS
Montgomery Advertiser

WETUMPKA, Ala. (AP) – Early next year, residents and visitors of Wetumpka not only will be able to gaze at a towering hotel standing tall over the city's downtown area, they will be able to stay there. Wind Creek Wetumpka, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' \$246 million hotel and casino, is on schedule to be completed in early 2014.

The casino construction project has been under fire from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma, along with traditionalists in Alabama, for its potential desecration of Hickory Ground, a pre-removal sacred site and burial ground. General Manager Cody Williamson said the outer shell of the 20-story hotel is "pretty much completed," with inner fixtures such as Sheetrock

See CASINO on Page 5

More filings in 'Baby Veronica' case may mean second look by US Supreme Court

LENZY KREBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The U.S. Supreme Court may be taking a second look at the Baby Veronica case. July 25, Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown filed a petition for the court to stop a South Carolina family court hearing scheduled for Wednesday that would set a date for a custody transfer of his three-year-old daughter, Veronica, to a non-Native couple from James Island. In a 3-2 decision last Wednesday, the South Carolina Supreme Court rejected petitions from both Brown and the Cherokee Nation to reconsider its decision to order the lower court to finalize the child's adoption without a best interest hearing. "Moreover, in light of the urgent need for this matter to be concluded, we determine, upon review of the record, that the adoption of Baby Girl by the Adoptive Couple is in the best interest of Baby Girl," South

Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal wrote for the majority. In his appeal, Dusten Brown asks U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, as the circuit justice over South Carolina, to stop the family court hearing and allow his parents and tribe to intervene in the adoption, as per the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Roberts was among the five U.S. Supreme Court justices who ruled last month that the Indian Child Welfare Act did not automatically grant Brown custody due to his lack of involvement during his fiancée's pregnancy. Under South Carolina law, Brown forfeited his parental

See VERONICA on Page 4



COURTESY Veronica Brown sees her father off July 22, 2013 at Tulsa International Airport as he departs for his mandatory National Guard training exercises.



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Ark. officials to meet Quapaw Tribe about site

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) – Arkansas economic development officials and an archaeologist are to meet with the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma to discuss a recently discovered Indian village in northeast Arkansas where a \$1.1 billion steel mill is to be built.

Tribal spokesman Sean Harrison said the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday in Osceola, where the Big River Steel mill is planned.

Mississippi County has allocated \$14.5 million and the state promises \$125

million in bonds for the mill that officials say will create 525 jobs at an average annual salary of \$75,000.

The meeting will be closed out of concern that publicizing the location of the village could lead to plundering, according to Clif Chitwood, director of economic development for Mississippi County.

But the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported Friday that it has asked Arkansas Economic Development Commission Director Grant Tennille to

open the meeting under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

Ann Early, the state archaeologist, said in an email to the newspaper that she was not familiar with provisions for open meetings under either the state or federal FOIA laws.

“Specific locations of archaeological sites listed in our database are not made public . unless the sites are protected (like Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park),” she wrote. “This is Arkansas law . designed

to protect sites from looting and grave robbing, and to help protect landowners from trespassers.”

Tribal council chairman John Berry told the newspaper: “We want to be cautious and careful. We want to know the impact on the sites.”

Chitwood said that the county is prepared to spend approximately \$200,000 to move a planned railroad spur “a few hundred feet” from the site that he said is about 0.9 acres.

“We’re not going to put

a shovel anywhere near it,” Chitwood said. “We’ll put a fence around it before construction starts,” which is expected later this year.

An archaeological firm hired by the county used sonar to find the village site 4 feet below ground, Chitwood said.

There were an estimated 50,000 Indians in Mississippi County when Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto arrived in about 1540. Berry said the Indians were Quapaw.

Delaware Tribe purchases Kansas farm property for development

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

LAWRENCE, Kan. – An Oklahoma tribe announced last week it now owns 87 acres of northeastern Kansas farm land.

Officials with the Delaware Tribe of Indians confirmed July 23 that their July 10 purchase was made through the tribe’s business subsidiary, LTI Enterprises, LLC.

Prior to its forced removal to Oklahoma after the Civil War, the tribe lived on a reservation in northeastern Kansas between Leavenworth and Lawrence.

The tribe is considering relocating its headquarters to its previous reservation due to economic development restrictions it faces as part of a 2009 memorandum of agreement with the Cherokee Nation. Under the agreement, the Delaware Tribe cannot exert any governmental authority over land within the Cherokee Nation’s 14-county jurisdictional area or take any

land into trust in exchange for the Cherokee Nation not opposing the tribe regaining federal recognition.

The agreement, which was required thanks to the 1866 treaty that moved the Delawares to Oklahoma, does not extend to Delaware property outside the Cherokee Nation’s jurisdiction.

The Delaware Tribe’s current capitol, Bartlesville, Okla., and its Chelsea, Okla., office are within the Cherokee Nation’s territory. The tribe also has offices in Kansas - in Emporia and Caney. The tribe has been soliciting feedback from tribal citizens for potential service expansion in Kansas.

The property, which was previously part of a sod farm, is located on the town’s north side near a Kansas Turnpike interchange.

Delaware officials declined to provide a purchase price or a timeline for when the property will be used for tribal services. Proposed uses include a clinic, child care and tribal housing.

Claremore Indian Hospital’s maternity care honored

CLAREMORE, Okla. — The Oklahoma State Department of Health says Claremore Indian Hospital has been designated a “Baby Friendly” hospital for its maternity care.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is pleased to acknowledge that the Claremore Indian Hospital has received the first-in-Oklahoma designation as a “Baby Friendly” hospital. Baby-Friendly designation is the gold standard bestowed by Baby-Friendly USA, Inc., the national authority for the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund. This is the highest designation afforded to hospitals by an accrediting body that promotes best practices for maternity care.

Only seven percent of U.S. babies are born in Baby-Friendly hospitals. Hospitals that are designated as Baby-Friendly have demonstrated best practice in the care of mothers and newborns and improved breastfeeding rates. In addition, Baby-Friendly hospitals support mother-baby bonding by keeping mothers and babies together, putting babies in skin-to-skin contact

right after birth, educating all families on best infant feeding practices, and educating hospital staff on procedures to better support new families.

“We appreciate Claremore Indian Hospital’s vigorous efforts to promote maternal and infant health as part of Oklahoma’s efforts to reduce infant mortality,” said OSDH State Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Cline.

The OSDH is encouraging other hospitals to follow in Claremore Indian Hospital’s footsteps. Claremore Indian Hospital participated in the statewide Becoming Baby-Friendly in Oklahoma project as a member of the initial “Trailblazer” group working to achieve this designation of quality maternal/newborn care. Other hospitals in Oklahoma are working to achieve the designation. They are: Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, INTEGRIS Health in Edmond, Children’s Hospital in Oklahoma City, OU Medical Center in Edmond and St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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VERONICA

Continued from Page 1

rights when he did not provide financial support for the biological mother for the duration of her pregnancy or take steps to establish his paternity immediately after the child’s birth. Brown’s attorneys maintain that he did not know when the child was born until he was served with adoption papers four months after her birth.

“We are gravely disappointed that the South Carolina Supreme Court has denied our petition for rehearing,” Cherokee Nation Assistant Attorney General Chrissi Nimmo said July 24. “It’s troublesome that, with no new evidence presented in nearly two years, the court would reverse its prior decision, which stated that Baby Girl’s interests were best served by residing with her biological father. This child has been living in a healthy, loving and nurturing home with her father and stepmother for more than a year and a half. She is surrounded by a loving extended family, which includes her grandparents, sister and cousins. Dusten has always been found to be a fit and loving father, yet the South Carolina Supreme Court considered none of these factors, including the father-daughter bond they have developed over the last 19 months. This court has reversed itself based on the same evidence it used to award custody to Dusten Brown nearly two years ago.”

Three Native American organizations – the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Native American Rights Fund – have announced plans to jointly file a federal civil rights lawsuit on Veronica Brown’s behalf over the South Carolina Supreme Court’s decision to not allow for a best interest hearing in the protracted custody fight.

“The National Congress of American Indians refuses to stand by as the rights of this child are violated,” NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata said. “Together with the Native American Rights Fund and the National Indian Child Welfare Association, we are preparing to file litigation in order to protect Veronica’s civil rights. On behalf of all Native American children, we will pursue every legal option available to us to ensure that standard adoption

procedures are upheld in this case.

“Let me add that I believe the South Carolina Supreme Court has shown willful disregard for the facts when it claims Dusten Brown has not been involved in the life of his daughter. On the contrary, Dusten Brown has gone to extensive lengths to maintain his family and to care for Veronica. The court’s willingness to ignore these facts and rush a resolution in this matter is deeply troubling.”

A filing timeline or venue has not been announced for the organizations’ lawsuit.

In a separate lawsuit filed in federal district court last Thursday, the child’s birth mother, Christy Maldonado, along with 10 other unnamed women, are requesting that the government declare portions of the Indian Child Welfare Act unconstitutional on the grounds that it uses race when determining with whom a child should live. According to documents, the other 10 women are also unmarried mothers of children with either tribally verified or self-identified Native descent whose prospective adoptive parents are not Native.

According to federal legal precedent, tribal citizenship is considered a political affiliation rather than a racial one.

Passed in 1978 in response to the high numbers of Native children taken into state custody, the Indian Child Welfare Act applies to children who are enrolled citizens of a federally recognized tribe or are eligible or citizenship through at least one parent. It does not apply to members of state-recognized tribes or people who claim Native heritage but are not enrolled.

In addition to the federal government, Maldonado’s suit also names Cherokee Nation as a defendant.

“Ms. Maldonado surrendered her parental rights the day after Baby Girl was born,” Nimmo said. “Under both Oklahoma and South Carolina state law, that relinquishment of rights would be final. Ironically, only because ICWA does apply in this case does Ms. Maldonado still have a voice in this adoption. However, the preference of one parent should never override the preference of the other parent, as long as he is fit.”

Last defendants to go to trial in corruption case

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) – The last three defendants indicted in a corruption case on Montana’s Crow Indian Reservation plan to go to trial next month after failing to reach plea deals with prosecutors, according to court documents.

U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon had given Dale Drew Old Horn, Allen Joseph Old Horn and Shawn Talking Eagle Danforth until last Thursday to make plea agreements with federal prosecutors. Attorneys for the three men said in filings July 25 in U.S. District Court in Billings they intend to proceed with an Aug. 13 trial.

The three men are among eight defendants who are accused of diverting more than \$500,000 from tribal accounts by charging companies working on the reservation for historic preservation office oversight. But instead of turning the payments over to the tribe, they kept the money for themselves, prosecutors said.

Four of the defendants have made deals with prosecutors. The eighth,

Danelle Lynn Old Horn, died in December.

Dale Old Horn is the tribe’s former preservation director, charged with protecting the Crow’s culturally, archeologically and historically important resources. The preservation office hires tribal monitors to oversee projects on tribal lands, such as energy development, to ensure those resources aren’t threatened.

Old Horn employed in the preservation office or designated as monitors the other defendants: his son, Allen; his daughter, Danelle; his niece’s boyfriend, Danforth; his nephew, Frederick Deputee; his grandson, Martin Old Horn; and Mark Denny and Larkin Chandler.

The companies working on the reservation are required to pay for the monitors’ consultation and oversight of the commercial projects. Dale Old Horn directed companies, including NorthWestern Energy and ConocoPhillips, to pay the monitors directly instead of sending the

payments to the tribe’s financial office, prosecutors said.

The money was diverted for their personal use and concealed from the tribe in a conspiracy that ran from 2009 to 2011, prosecutors said.

The other defendants pleaded guilty to reduced charges except for Danelle Old Horn, whose indictment was dismissed due to her death.

Dale Old Horn, his son and Danforth face charges that include conspiracy to defraud the tribe, corrupt diversion of tribal revenues, theft from a tribal organization, extortion involving a federally funded program and income tax fraud.

They have pleaded not guilty.

Former tribal Chairman Cedric Black Eagle said last year the alleged activities were uncovered during a 2011 investigation by the tribe’s finance department and turned over to federal authorities.

UKB

Continued from Page 1

order to accommodate that deadline.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, tribes can only conduct gaming on trust property within its jurisdictional area. In a July 2012 decision to allow the UKB’s trust application, then-acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Michael Black wrote that the UKB had met the federal requirements for acquiring land into trust. Previously, the Cherokee Nation had been recognized as the primary tribe within the tribes’ shared 14-county area, thus requiring the UKB to get Cherokee Nation approval for land into trust

applications.

“Now that we have determined that the former reservation of the Cherokee Nation is also the former reservation of the UKB... the regulatory consent of the Cherokee Nation is no longer applicable,” Black wrote last year. “By receiving and considering the comments of the Cherokee Nation on the instant acquisition... the department has satisfied any requirements to consult with the Cherokee Nation.”

Opened in 1986 as Keetoowah Bingo, the casino directly employs 124 people and funds the paychecks of more than 70 tribal government employees. Through its attorney, the UKB released the following statement last week:

“In its never-ending quest

to destroy its Cherokee brothers and sisters, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has this day filed a request that the United States’ District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma enter an order to prohibit the Department of Interior from taking land, presently owned by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, into trust,” UKB legal counsel Jim McMillin stated. “The effect of this injunction, if granted, would immediately throw some 300 Keetoowahs out of work. We trust that the federal court, upon hearing all of the evidence, will decline to issue an injunction and permit the Department of Interior provisionally to take the land into trust.”

Latelast Tuesday, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker announced two potential compromises that would allow the casino to stay open. The first proposal suggests that the DOI take the casino’s current site into trust for the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee Nation would then sign a 99-year renewable lease with the UKB to allow gaming to continue at the facility.

Another option would be for the UKB to relocate the casino to land the Cherokee Nation has in trust south of Tahlequah near the intersection of state highways 82 and 62, which is already held in trust for gaming, and a sign a 99-year lease.

As of press time, the UKB has not responded publicly to the offer.

THEFT

Continued from Page 1

federal, state, local and tribal.”

At his two-day trial, testimony revealed that most of the money went toward a limousine service to bring his ailing mother to medical appointments. Thomas charged the tribe \$89,000 for the trips, including \$28,000 in tips, according to testimony.

A defense attorney argued the charges for rides to doctor’s appointments were legitimate expenses. Thomas, 45, did not testify and his lawyer did not call any witnesses.

Sentencing was scheduled for Oct. 22. Thomas faces a maximum of up to 25 years in prison but guidelines, which could call for less, have not been determined yet. He also faces a fine of up to \$750,000 and forfeiture of \$102,000 and two personal computers, prosecutors said.

His attorney, Paul Thomas, said he was very disappointed by the verdict.

The defendant’s brother, tribal treasurer Steven Thomas, is to be tried separately on charges that he stole \$700,000 from the tribe.

During closing arguments July 24, prosecutor Doug Morabito said Thomas used a tribe-issued credit card “for his own piggy bank” at a time when the organization was struggling financially and laying off employees.

“The people of the Mashantucket community are out \$100,000 because Michael Thomas took it,” said prosecutor Christopher Mattei.

Paul Thomas told the jury that the government failed to prove its case and that the charges for rides to doctor’s appointments were legitimate expenses.

“What you have in the end is opinion, belief and assumption,” Thomas said. “The evidence did not show that Michael Thomas, other than a handful of small charges, made impermissible personal charges or that those charges were part of a scheme or that Michael Thomas acted with any unlawful purpose, intent.”

Morabito said Thomas signed a tribal resolution prohibiting use of the credit card for personal expenses. Tribal employees repeatedly advised him he could not use the card for personal expenses, he said.

“Did he stop? No. He kept doing it,” Morabito said.

He said Thomas “blatantly and systemically” used the tribe’s money for his personal benefit while it was laying off employees.

“He did it because he could get away with it,” Morabito said. “He did it because he couldn’t afford to do it any other way.”

Morabito also challenged the use of the limo service, saying the tribe had its own transportation service. Prosecutors asked the jury if it would be OK for a mayor or legislator to use taxpayer money to transport their mother in a limo service’s Cadillac Escalade.

Paul Thomas defended the limo service expenses, saying transportation for medical appointments was within the scope of what the tribe was required to do. He said the tribe’s transportation service did not operate during the early morning hours Thomas’ mother needed rides, though prosecutors said the service tried to accommodate tribal members.

Michael Thomas was a very busy leader, his attorney said.

“He was a man who had heavy burdens and maybe he made some mistakes,” Thomas said, adding that they were not intentional or criminal.

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Trial set for student in Oklahoma shooting plot

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. (AP) — A Washington County district judge on Monday set a Sept. 9 trial for a Bartlesville teenager charged with plotting to kill classmates and police officers inside a high school.

Sammie Eaglebear Chavez, 19, appeared before District Judge Curtis DeLapp via a video hookup Monday. Chavez has been jailed on \$1 million bond since his arrest in December, which came

hours before a gunman opened fire at a Connecticut elementary school and killed 20 children and six adults before killing himself.

Chavez has pleaded not guilty to hatching a plot to lure students into the Bartlesville High School auditorium with a plan to shoot them after chaining the doors shut, according to a police affidavit. Prosecutors say Chavez also planned to place bombs by

the auditorium doors and detonate them as police officers approached.

Chavez also tried to obtain a map of the school campus and had recently used a school computer for information on a platform to support a .22-caliber rifle, according to the affidavit.

A student informed school officials about the plot — Chavez apparently tried to recruit classmates — and the school officials called police.

No one was injured.

Bartlesville is about 50 miles north of Tulsa. School district patrons are scheduled to vote Sept. 10 on whether the district should raise taxes to beef up security.

Chavez' mother has said her son sent her a text message two days before his arrest saying that he wanted to "shoot up" the high school because he thought some students were talking about him behind his back. But she

also said she didn't think her son would have carried out the attack.

In May, a judge found Chavez competent to stand trial after a mental competency examination was ordered by the court.

Chavez' defense attorney did not respond to a message seeking comment Monday. A number listed in court records for Chavez' home in Bartlesville was not working when dialed Monday.

Public vote set on legalizing booze on Pine Ridge

PINERIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribe Election Commission has scheduled a vote on legalizing alcohol on the dry Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The special election is set for Tuesday, Aug. 13.

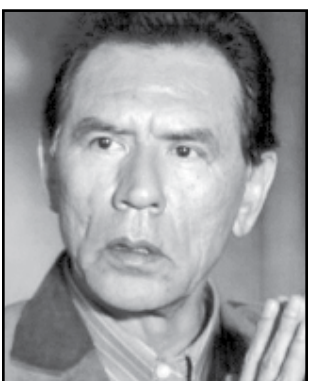
The Tribal Council in June approved a public referendum on whether to legalize alcohol on the southern South Dakota reservation, where residents sneak in beer and liquor from nearby towns such as Whiteclay, Neb., and alcoholism is rampant.

Federal law bans the sale of alcohol on American Indian reservations unless a tribal council allows it. Previous efforts to legalize alcohol on the Pine Ridge reservation have failed.

Actor Wes Studi arrested for drunken driving in NM

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Actor Wes Studi, who appeared in "Dances with Wolves" and "The Last of the Mohicans," was arrested early Friday for aggravated drunken driving in New Mexico, authorities said.

According to a criminal complaint, Studi, 66, was arrested around 1 a.m. while at a stop sign in Santa Fe. The actor was in a 2005 black Volvo with two front tires blown out, Santa Fe police said.



Wes Studi

Before officers arrived, a witness saw Studi try to "repair the vehicle's damaged

tires in the middle of the road without the vehicle lights on," the complaint said.

When an officer asked Studi to step out of the car, the actor "needed to use the vehicle to keep his balance and then stumbled to (the officer's) patrol vehicle," the document states.

Officers at the scene said Studi's speech was slurred and his breath smelled of alcohol.

Police also said he was "combative and confused"

and couldn't tell officers where he was headed or what he had hit to cause the tire blowouts.

Santa Fe police spokeswoman Celina Westervelt said Studi refused breath, field-sobriety and blood tests. He was booked into jail on an aggravated DWI charge.

Studi was being held Friday on \$3,000 bond, according to police, who didn't immediately know if he had a lawyer.

In April, Studi became the second Native American inducted into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Western Performers in Oklahoma City.

The Santa Fe resident is also known for his roles as the Apache leader in "Geronimo: An American Legend" and as Navajo detective Joe Leaphorn in made-for-TV movies based on mysteries by the late New Mexican writer Tony Hillerman.

CASINO

Continued from Page 1

and windows currently going in at the site off U.S. 231 about nine miles northeast of Montgomery in Elmore County.

"And even when you're finished with that, there's still the load-in of items like tables, chairs and clocks," Williamson said. "That takes a lot of time, especially when you get into hotels. Faucets, sinks, showers — it just takes a long time."

While finishing touches still are being put on the hotel, which has an estimated February or March opening, Williamson said the casino will be open much sooner.

"We know we wanted to have the casino floor open by the end of the year," Williamson said. "That's a goal that we had, and we seem to be on track with that."

He explained that the casino can be opened before the hotel because it sits separate

from the hotel. There's an entrance hub connecting the two and serving as a gateway to either destination.

A recent walking tour of the casino floor showed workers installing lights and painting walls. Williamson pointed out areas that will be used for dining and the spot in the middle of the room where an aquarium will sit. The 90,000-square-foot gaming floor will feature more than 2,500 electronic gambling machines, compared with about 900 available at Creek Casino Wetumpka, the site's current facility.

Williamson said that eventually the front part of the current casino will be torn down, but the larger back part will be kept as an events center.

During a recent tour of the hotel, Williamson pointed out an area where a pool will be built about October. The resort is expected to include about 285 rooms and suites, a fine dining restaurant, a grill, a coffee shop, a snack bar and a buffet with seating

overlooking the river. There also will be entertainment rooms suitable for large parties and corporate events.

Wetumpka Mayor Jerry Willis said the city's preparation for the hotel and casino has "gone well." The city and Poarch Creeks are working together so they'll be ready for any possible snag that might accompany the opening.

"We have communication lines open with them. We keep them posted, and they do the same for us," Willis said. "All in all, it's been pretty smooth."

Both the city and the Elmore County Commission in March funded an economic impact study to look at the overall effect the gaming center has had and will have on the surrounding area. The study has since been completed, but city and county officials said they could not provide the Montgomery Advertiser with a copy.

City Attorney Regina Edwards said the results of the study are being used in a

negotiation between PCI and both the city and county for future services.

The study was commissioned to determine the additional costs the city and county might incur because of the expansion.

The current Creek Casino Wetumpka includes property that sits on trust land, a term used for land owned by an Indian tribe. The trust land in this case is owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and is not subject to taxes by any other government. Wind Creek Wetumpka also will sit on trust land.

The only portion of the current facility that sits on fee simple land — land that produces ad valorem taxes — is the parking deck. Williamson said the parking deck also is undergoing an expansion and will be upgraded from 500 parking spots to 2,500.

Williamson said the casino and hotel are expected to bring in 500 to 600 jobs with an increased payroll of \$20 million.

QUAPAW

Continued from Page 1

followed. The lawsuit originally sought to see construction on the property halted, but was not acted on in time by the courts.

Located adjacent to Interstate 44, Downstream Casino's complex straddles three states, with a parking lot in Cherokee County, Kan. The property was originally a fractionated allotment that was taken into trust by the Department of the Interior on behalf of the original allottee's heirs, then transferred to the tribe under the Indian Land Acquisition Act.

In his decision, District of Columbia Circuit Judge Rudolph Contreras wrote that the Cherokee County Board

of Directors did not provide enough evidence to prove that the property was ineligible for gaming before it was placed into trust. According to the deeds submitted by the Secretary of the Interior's office, all of the parcels were either already held in trust or had restricted fee status.

"The Board of Commissioners has not demonstrated a substantial probability that the injuries it has suffered as a result of the casino's operation would be redressed by the relief that it seeks here," Contreras wrote. "It therefore lacks standing to challenge the Secretary's (of Interior) acquisition of interests... on behalf of the tribe."

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At 94, Chief Bald Eagle looks back on full life

TOM GRIFFITH
Rapid City Journal

CHERRY CREEK, S.D. (AP) – Chief David Beautiful Bald Eagle sits in the crowded kitchen of his isolated ranch house, surrounded by mementos of his storied life. Four tribal chieftains wait in his living room.

He is in no hurry. At 94 years of age, life has taught him to slow down and savor the twilight of his long and colorful life. Outside, his painted ponies endure the 96-degree heat of this July day, swatting flies with their tails and seeking scarce shade.

Inside, Bald Eagle relishes the cool breeze of his window air conditioner as he tells a reporter from the Rapid City Journal of his earliest visit to the Days of '76 celebration in Deadwood.

"I was about 10 years old, and I was riding in a wagon," said the traditional chief of the Minnicoujou Tribe, who was born in a tepee in 1919. "There were five or six wagons of Native peoples riding in full costume in the parade. After the Days of '76, we would return in a wagon train to our reservations.

"It was just like going to town. We were in a parade. That was the exciting part of it," he said of the 100-mile journey. "We didn't travel very fast. We'd start out at Cherry Creek, camp at various ranches along the way, with the last stop at Fort Meade, then make the final haul to Deadwood. Right after the grand entry on Sunday, we'd pull out. It would take six days in either direction."

All told, Bald Eagle has ridden in 76 Days of '76 parades. Before this week's Deadwood celebration, he said it was likely to be his last.

"This year will be the 77th year I've ridden in the parade," he said

with a faraway look in his eyes. "We used to camp in places there, and we'd get together, both whites and Indians, and have cookouts, a family gathering. I remember we'd sit in the grandstands for the Thursday evening performances, with singing and country music.

his people have provided to the Days of '76 is fairly amazing. He provides that continuity, and he brings the pageantry, the color, and the incredible Native costumes and workmanship. It is just awe-inspiring. Whenever he calls and says he'll be there, we're always

parachuted into Normandy with the 82nd Airborne during D-Day when he was severely wounded.

But he would recover to return home and go on to rodeo with Casey Tibbs, drive race cars, dance with Marilyn Monroe, appear in more than 30 movies, marry a

When one of his fellow leaders said to him, "Chief, you are not standing alone," Bald Eagle accepted the honor and addressed more than 900 attendees.

"I got up and said every one of you people of the Americas' indigenous nations have had a way of life, your own language and beliefs, for the past thousands of years," he recalled. "I don't want you to change. I want you to keep your language and practices and ceremonies you have always done. Don't change anything. Just go on. They gave me a standing ovation."

Since then, Bald Eagle has been asked to address and to visit indigenous people around the world. It is not unlike today, when tribal leaders from South Dakota reservations patiently wait in his living room for counsel from a man who may not be long for this world.

"They want last-minute advice from me," he said matter-of-factly. "Ever since I have been a chief, I have wanted to tell people the truth and that's what I've been doing – bringing the truth out.

"I was born in a tepee at Cherry Creek, the first Indian village there ever was," Bald Eagle said. "I know we can't go back there, back to where we were. But we can tell the young ones how it was and they can remember, and they can bring it back. They can return."

This week, in perhaps one last hoorah, Bald Eagle returned to the Deadwood celebration that has captivated his attention each July for more than three-quarters of a century.

"I really never did anything in preparation for the Days of '76, but I have always been in the Days," he sighed, rubbing his weary eyes. "I've enjoyed it. It's been a part of my life, though it seems like it's been such a short life."



TOM GRIFFITH | COURTESY RAPID CITY JOURNAL

Born in 1919 in a tepee near Cherry Creek, Chief David Bald Eagle has ridden in 76 Days of '76 parades. This year may be his last.

Those days we used to have, days like that."

Days of '76 General Chairman Dawn Burns said her committee is always pleased when Chief Bald Eagle participates in the town's annual celebration and dismissed his statement that this may be his last parade.

"He says that every year, but he always shows up," Burns said. "To carry on the tradition that

thrilled."

Beyond the horse ride down Deadwood's historic Main Street each July, Bald Eagle has had many days of distinction.

Bald Eagle is the grandson of Chief White Bull, who is a cousin of Sitting Bull, and White Feather. Both of those men fought in the Battle of Little Big Horn. Bald Eagle himself enlisted in the horse cavalry at Fort Meade in 1939 and

Belgian actress and become the "chief of chiefs."

At a meeting in Puerto Rico about 15 years ago, Bald Eagle was made First Chief of the United Indigenous Nations, a society of chiefs from reservations around the globe.

"It was a surprise to me, because they gave me four days to decide," he said. "And it took me the full four days to decide."



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THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

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YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

JULY 28-AUGUST 1
Indian Falls Creek. Registration fees: 6 years and younger: \$15. 7 years and older: \$55. For more information: visit www.indian-falls-creek.net, or Victor Cope, Exec. Director, ndnrev@aol.com or 405-395-4226.

JULY 30
Chickasaw Nation General Election for Council Seats 5 and 3. For more info call Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475.

AUGUST 2-4
Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow at the Concho Powwow Grounds, Concho. 6pm-11pm on Friday, 2pm-1am Sat & Sun. Contact Dara Franklin, 405-476-1134 or 405-422-7545.

AUGUST 9-11
Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa Hosts the 36th Annual POW WOW OF CHAMPIONS ORU MABEE CENTER, 7777 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa. More info, www.iiicot.org

AUGUST 10
Indian Taco Sale. 11:00am-2:30pm. OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. For more information: 405-681-0869.

AUGUST 15-18
Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko.

Free event open to the public. 2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 24
American Indian Expo Poker Run, 9 am registration at Caddo Co. Fairgrounds, 10 am parade through downtown Anadarko. \$200 high hand. \$25 registration per bike. More info call Phillip Smith, 405-933-1536. T-Shirts given to first 50 riders!

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2
Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Eufaula Indian Community 17th Annual Labor Day Pow-wow & Homecoming at Eastside Ballpark on Lake Eufaula 7:00pm Grand Entry, Free Admission, Dance competitions, arts and crafts, food vendors, outdoor camping and a Alzheimer's Memorial Walk. Contact JayDee Tiger, EIC Pow-wow Chairperson (918)707-0361

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah. www.cherokeetourismok.com

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1
Ottawa Powwow & Celebration at Adawe Park, 11400 S 613 Rd, Miami. Free and open to the public. Friday 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-midnight. Contact Craig Satepauhoodle, 918-542-1536.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
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SEPTEMBER 6-8
Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow at Wyandotte Nation Tribal Grounds, E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte. Grand entries Friday 8pm, Sat 1:30pm & 7pm, Sun 1:30pm. Contact Sherri Clemons, 918-678-2297.

SEPTEMBER 12-14
Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville. Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15
Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida, Wyandotte. Events held all day. Contact Kenna Simmons, 918-666-2435.

SEPTEMBER 26
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. The public is invited to the opening reception at 1:06 p.m. at Lawton's McMahon Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris Avenue. The exhibit will be on display through August 31, 2014. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

SEPTEMBER 27-28
Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

SEPTEMBER 28
The Chickasaw Annual Meeting

Various Locations, Tishomingo. Phone: 580-371-2040 Toll Free: 800-593-3356

OCTOBER 4-5
Fort Sill Indian School Annual Reunion, Campus Gym, Lawton, 7 pm to 11 pm on Friday 10 am to 11 pm Saturday Contact Phyllis Hunter 405.247.1558 (work)

OCTOBER 19
Pryor Wellbriety Powwow, Mid-American Expo Center, Pryor (four miles south of Pryor). Gourd dancing at 2pm & 5pm. Grand Entry at 6pm. Free admission. Info call Mary Hayes, 918-698-0583. All Drums Welcome!

OCTOBER 26
Bacone Fall Pow Wow 2013 Noon - 11 P.M. at Muskogee Civic Center, W. Okmulgee & 5th Street Muskogee. Contest Powwow, free admission. All Princesses, Drums, Singers and Dancers invited. Vendor Info: Asa Lewis 918-360-0057 or lewisa@bacone.edu PW Info: Connie Falleaf 918-687-3299 or falleafc@bacone.edu Like us on Facebook!

NOVEMBER 29-30
Choctaw Nation Powwow, Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant. Add some wow to your weekend! Embrace the sights, sounds and culture of the Native American People with arts and crafts, authentic food and a must-see dance competition. Whether you come to compete or to take it all in, it's sure to be a rewarding weekend. For more info visit www.choctawcasinos.com.

- Inside this issue:
- New deadline in Wounded Knee sale
 - VAWA amendment falls short
 - Indian Housing training coming to Tulsa



NATIVE TIMES



COURTESY
A routine audit relating to the Choctaw Nation's Durant property found discrepancies from the purchase of steel from Builders Steel, a Tulsa company that sold the metal to the tribe. It was revealed the tribe was overcharged.

6 plead guilty in bribery linked to casino

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – Six people linked to the construction of a Choctaw Nation casino pleaded guilty to bribery charges, federal prosecutors announced on Aug. 5.

Five of the six people – Lauri Parsons, her husband Brent Parsons, Cordell Bugg, James Stewart and Mark Eshenroder – owned or worked for companies that performed work or sold materials for the construction of the Durant casino, the U.S. Attorney's

Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma said. The other person, Allen Franklin, was a project manager for the tribe.

All six were charged with conspiracy to commit theft or bribery of programs that receive federal funds, which is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. In addition, Brent Parsons was charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and Stewart was charged with money laundering. Each of

those counts is punishable by up to 10 years behind bars.

According to prosecutors, the Parsons owned Builders Steel, a Tulsa company that sold steel to the tribe, and Stewart worked for the company. Bugg and Eshenroder worked for Flintco, a Tulsa-based construction management company hired by the tribe.

Attempts to locate their attorneys through court records were unsuccessful.

The Choctaw Nation

said in an Aug. 5 statement that a routine audit relating to the casino project found discrepancies from the purchase of steel from Builders Steel, and eventually revealed the tribe had been overcharged for those purchases. The tribe said the matter was turned over to federal investigators.

“The Choctaw Nation expects to be made whole with respect to any losses,”

See **BRIBERY** on Page 6

S.C. Court issues arrest warrant for Dusten Brown

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native American Times

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown is now a wanted man in South Carolina.

After a closed hearing Friday afternoon, a South Carolina Family Court issued an arrest warrant for Brown for custodial interference, a felony that is punishable by up to five years in prison. Under South Carolina statute, if he gives up his three-year-old daughter, Baby Veronica, to Matt and Melanie

Capobianco, the non-Native couple attempting to adopt the child, he would only be facing a misdemeanor. The Capobiancos were awarded custody of Veronica on July 31 in South Carolina.

The arrest warrant comes after Veronica and her biological father did not attend a court-ordered four-hour visit on Aug. 4 with an adoption investigator and the Capobiancos, prompting judge Daniel Martin to suspend the proposed one-week transition period. Brown, who is currently in Iowa for National Guard training, has publicly said

See **WARRANT** on Page 4



COURTESY
Veronica Brown sees her father off July 22, 2013 at Tulsa International Airport as he departs for his mandatory National Guard training exercises.

Govt. Accountability Office studies challenges in Indian housing programs

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP) – Investigators are looking into challenges that American Indian tribes face in administering federal housing funds.

Representatives from the U.S. Government Accountability Office are visiting the Navajo Nation this week as part of the study mandated by Congress.

American Indian tribes or their designated housing entities receive some \$650 million a year in Indian Housing Block Grant funding under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Officials from the Navajo Nation say challenges in developing homes include a lack of infrastructure, absence of large-scale land use planning and the tribal government's own review process.

The GAO's report won't be limited to the Navajo Nation. It's tentatively set for release before the end of the year and will include recommendations for addressing the challenges.

The Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG) is a formula grant that provides a range of affordable housing activities on Indian reservations and Indian areas. The block grant approach to housing for Native Americans was enabled by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA).

Court rejects tribal housing subsidy complaint

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – An appeals court has dismissed the Fort Belknap tribal government's request to prevent the federal government from recovering millions in housing subsidies that were overpaid to the central Montana reservation over a decade.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined it overpaid the central Montana reservation \$2.86 million between 2000 and 2010, even after recovering earlier overpayments during that period and stretching back to 1998.

HUD gives Fort Belknap annual grants to subsidize housing units in a lease-to-own program for reservation residents. The payments are supposed to end when home ownership is conveyed to the resident, but the

federal housing agency found the tribe was still receiving payments for residences that had been or should have been conveyed.

The agency sent the tribal government notices in 2001, 2005 and 2007 of overpayments for housing units that did not qualify for subsidies, a three-judge panel with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of appeals said in last Thursday's opinion.

The tribe agreed in 2002 to repay HUD \$330,524 through deductions from future grants, but it failed to respond to the 2005 and 2007 notices. HUD subtracted \$249,561 from Fort Belknap's 2006 grant allocation and an additional \$310,330 based on the 2007 notice.

In 2010, after the tribal government sent HUD updated information about the housing inventory in the subsidy program, the federal agency found additional issues and contradictions from information that was provided in past challenges.

As a result, HUD determined that Fort Belknap had been overpaid a total of \$2.86 million from 2000 to 2010, and the agency proposed a schedule to recover the full amount.

Fort Belknap officials filed two administrative appeals, saying the three-year time limit had run out for claims before 2010. The agency denied the appeals, saying the actions taken starting with the notice in 2001 began the process.

The tribal government then filed a petition with the federal appeals court to review HUD's order.

The 9th Circuit panel ruled it has no jurisdiction to reverse the order because HUD has the authority to recover payments that were mistakenly made and the agency never found the tribal government to be in "substantial noncompliance" with the law.

Federal judge dismisses ND housing kickbacks case

DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) – A federal judge on Thursday threw out an indictment against an architect accused of accepting kickbacks for housing contracts on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, after the government said it needed more evidence to continue the case.

Last month a North Dakota jury found Michael Addington not guilty of accepting a bribe by an agent of an organization receiving federal funds. The panel could not reach a verdict on a conspiracy to commit fraud charge.

U.S. District Judge Patrick

Conmy agreed to dismiss the case without prejudice, which means it could be brought up later for further prosecution.

“In light of the jury's verdict on the bribery charge in this case, the decision of the United States was that retrial on the conspiracy charge, while still viable, was not an appropriate use of prosecutorial and judicial resources,” U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon said in a statement.

Addington's lawyer, Mike Hoffman, told The Associated Press that the case was not “well-founded” and two of the government's key witnesses contradicted themselves at trial.

“I'm very happy for Mr. Addington,” Hoffman said. “He's a

very nice man.”

Addington was accused of using his position with the Standing Rock Housing Authority to help First Dakota Enterprises, a Fort Pierre, S.D., construction company, receive new projects. Prosecutors believe he gave information from sealed bids that allowed the company to underbid the competition.

The indictment said Addington was one of the “primary authorizing officers” in approving a \$1 million housing project on the North and South Dakota reservation for First Dakota Enterprises in October 2007.

Conmy had declined to dismiss the second count after the jury came back deadlocked on July 11. The judge said it was up to the jury, not

himself, to decide the credibility of government witnesses.

“The government's evidence in support of the conspiracy count was clear and uncontroverted, and, at least according to someone on the jury, also not believable,” Conmy wrote.

The government filed a motion earlier this week to dismiss the case.

“The United States has since reviewed the available evidence and does not currently intend to retry the matter at this time,” the motion read. “Investigation of the matter continues and new, or as of yet undiscovered, evidence may be secured in the near future.”

Ombudsman criticizes NPR report on Native children

■ State officials criticized the series even before it aired in October 2011, and the ombudsman, Edward Schumacher-Matos, said the hostile relationship between state officials and NPR reporters probably contributed to the report’s factual errors.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – A year and a half after National Public Radio aired a series criticizing South Dakota’s handling of foster care for Native American children, the news agency’s ombudsman said the three-part investigative series was “deeply flawed.”

Ombudsman Edward Schumacher-Matos, who monitors the accuracy of NPR’s reporting, issued a report Friday that found NPR’s reporter and producer committed “five sins” that violate the news agency’s code of standards and ethics, The Argus Leader reported.

The ombudsman’s report said those sins were: no proof for the series’ main allegations of wrongdoing; an unfair tone in communicating those unproven allegations: factual errors, shaky anecdotes and misleading use of data by quietly switching what was being measured; incomplete reporting and lack of critical context; and no response from the state on many key points.

The NPR series said a disproportionate number of Native American children removed from their homes in South Dakota each year are sent to foster care in non-Indian homes or group homes. It also alleged the state was raking in federal money for doing so. The series questioned whether South Dakota was violating the Indian Child Welfare Act, which requires that Native American children removed from homes must be placed with relatives or put in foster care with other Native American families except in unusual circumstances.

Schumacher-Matos found the reports badly inflated the federal money given to South Dakota and ignored the fact that it is often tribal judges deciding where to place children.

The ombudsman acknowledged that he cannot conclude the state should not be doing more to keep American Indian families together. “My investigation is of the NPR series, not of the state,” he wrote.

State officials criticized the series even before it aired in October 2011, and Schumacher-Matos said the hostile relationship between state officials and NPR reporters probably contributed to the report’s factual errors.

Tony Venhuizen, communications director for Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said state officials are gratified by the ombudsman’s findings.

“The NPR report was very troubling because it included so much innuendo and so many statements of fact that were false or not proven. The ombudsman did what the reporter should have done. He spent almost two years asking detailed questions in a non-confrontational way to actually try to understand the truth,” Venhuizen said.

NPR said Friday it “stands by the stories” and objects to the way Schumacher-Matos went about gathering information for his report.

However, NPR acknowledged its reporter should have taken other steps to represent the state’s case when state officials refused to participate in the series, that it was unclear how much federal money was in play, that the story was not careful to explain tribal authorities’ role in foster care cases, and that such a complex story should have been thoroughly documented online.

“Nevertheless, in re-examining the series, we found the reporting to be sound. The patterns the series identified were well documented. And they raise very real questions about South Dakota’s compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, which is under review by several federal agencies...” said NPR’s executive vice president Kinsey Wilson and senior vice president for news Margaret Low Smith.

Daugaard said recently he would welcome an opportunity for tribes to take control of foster care and child protection services on their reservations.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
This Feb. 7, 2012, photo shows a cross on a grave at the Wounded Knee National Historic landmark in South Dakota. James Czywczynski, 74, is trying to sell a 40-acre fraction of the landmark for \$3.9 million to the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Wounded Knee deadline set

BRANDON ECOFFEY
Native Sun News

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Jim Czywczynski owner of the National historic site of Wounded Knee has set a final date for the Oglala Sioux tribe or a group connected to the tribe to buy the land. According to Czywczynski if the tribe wants the land they have until Labor Day, September 2, to get it done.

“I feel that I have given the tribe every opportunity to buy the land or for someone associated with them to do it. They say they have multiple buyers ready to purchase it for them but they have not taken the steps to get it done,” said Czywczynski. “When I met with President Brewer and the descendants I thought it went well and something would have come from it by then but I have heard nothing.”

The meeting that Czywczynski referenced took place at the Native Sun News offices in Rapid City nearly a month ago and brought together the landowner, three members of the Hollow Horn

family and Oglala Sioux Tribal President Bryan Brewer.

During the meeting President Brewer told Czywczynski that the tribe did have three groups willing to help the tribe buy the land and that President Brewer would give the donors the green light to go ahead to buy the land at Wounded Knee and Porcupine Butte for the asking price of \$4.9 million.

The offer from President Brewer did however come with a stipulation requiring Czywczynski to turn around and donate half of the cash back to the descendants for the creation of a Wounded Knee memorial museum. At the conclusion of the meeting both parties left under the assumption that a counter offer would be put forth by Czywczynski to the tribe.

According to the landowner he sent an email and a packet via ground mail to President Brewer two weeks ago with his counter offer.

“The offer that I sent back to the tribe was that they pay the \$4.9 million asking price and I will turn the deed to the

land over to them. I have a title company ready to go with everything prepared and I am ready to get rid of the land and move on. I don’t want my kids to have to deal with the things I have dealt with over the course of the last thirty years,” said Czywczynski.

He would go on to say that he has had multiple offers from groups who have said they were working to have the land returned to the Oglala Sioux Tribe once it was purchased.

“I have been approached by people from all over the country who have said they want to purchase the land and donate it to the tribe, but now I have no choice but to open it up to buyers who are not connected with the tribe and if no one steps forward I will have a public auction for the land,” he said. “I have put other potential buyers off while I entertained the groups working on behalf of the tribe, but I can’t wait any longer.”

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VAWA amendment falls short of protecting women

■ 40 percent of all federally recognized tribes in the United States are barred from access to VAWA's full protection.

TALLI NAUMAN
Native Sun News

ANCHORAGE – Alaska Native rights advocates say they are disappointed in the bill Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK) introduced Aug. 1, for equal protection of indigenous family members under the recently approved federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

His colleague Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) drew piercing criticism in March from the Native American lobby for submitting language creating a “Special Rule for the State of Alaska”, which barred the members of 40 percent of all federally recognized tribes in the United States from access to VAWA's full protection.

At least 100 tribes actively opposed the rule. At the time, Begich said the move was “frustrating” and he promised to reintroduce the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act that he has championed since his election.

“We have not been able to move this bill so far because the State of Alaska administration opposes it,” Begich said in a social media post. “I can, and I will, be more aggressive with this legislation now that I am on the Indian Affairs Committee.”

Alaska Natives' access to both civil and criminal justice under tribal jurisdiction is more limited than it is for tribes in other states.

Domestic violence is rampant in Alaska Native enclaves. Statistically, at least 51 out of every 100 Native women are the victims of sexual assault in the 56 tribes represented by the Association of Village Council Presidents.

Yet the tribes cannot prosecute criminal cases against non-tribal residents. The tribes' civil jurisdiction is circumscribed as well.

Travel time and costs in law enforcement response and

prosecution provided by state or federal agencies can be prohibitive for victims of injustice.

The situation has spawned a petition drive for “Congress to remove the ‘Murkowski exclusion’ that excludes Alaskan tribes’ right to issue civil domestic protection orders regardless of who the perpetrator is --native or non-native.”

After Begich introduced the new bill on behalf of himself and Murkowski, the Senate sent it to the Committee on Indian Affairs as S1474. The proposal did not have the content on which Alaska Native rights supporters had reached consensus before submitting it to Begich.

“This version is vastly different than the version we saw and were asked to review,” said Alaskan Native rights advocate lawyer Lloyd B. Miller. “While some changes were made that we suggested, the entire bill was revamped to be a bill about Alaska tribes implementing state law,” he concluded.

The proposed Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2013 says its purpose is “to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the state relating to the enforcement of certain state laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes.”

Edward K. Thomas, president of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, said the new version has some good provisions in it. However, he added in a letter to council delegates, “We are generally disappointed in the last-minute-before-introduction changes that water down legislative intent.”

Critic Carol Daniel said the bill's repeal of the Alaska exception is “about the only positive thing” in it. “I can't believe they introduced this without giving us another chance to weigh in - especially given that this bill is completely different,” she said.

Daniel also noted that the bill is pointless because “the state doesn't need federal legislation in order to be

able to enter into intergovernmental agreements of the nature proposed here; [and the new] legislation doesn't make it mandatory.”

The previous draft language had purported “to supplement state jurisdiction in Alaska Native villages with enhanced tribal and local authority to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska while reducing domestic violence against Alaska Native women and children and to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes.”

John Bioff, from the non-profit Kwerak, Inc. which provides government-funded services for Bering Straits tribal members, said he, too, was “very disappointed, if this was our one shot to have federal legislation introduced addressing tribal jurisdiction.”

Bioff was incredulous. “It's hard for me to believe this is what actually got introduced,” he said.

Will Micklin, first vice-president of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes, complained, “The exceptions to the act are longer than its intended actions.”

Implementation “would appear to depend upon agreements from the State of Alaska that are discretionary and future grant funding through the Department of Justice,” he added. Relying on yearly grant competition cycles creates uncertainty, he said.

Begich's aide Andrea Sanders said the changes came about through consultations between both Alaska senators and the state's Attorney General Michael C. Geraghty on July 31.

“We have had to make several changes since the last discussion draft you all saw in late June to keep the dialogue and momentum moving forward,” Sanders told rights advocates in a letter.

Native American Rights Fund Staff Attorney Natalie Landreth stipulated: “This is now all about the state and is not at all what we have been discussing for years.”

Landreth was among those who took on Murkowski in March, saying that exclusions like the one the senator drafted have appeared in numerous bills over the years. “These

exclusions say to Alaska's tribes that they are different and lesser than other tribes,” Landreth said.

“In the case of VAWA, it means that Alaska Native women are less deserving of protection, less important. I find that unconscionable,” she said.

Murkowski retorted: “Of Alaska's 229 federally-recognized tribes, Alaska only has one reservation: Metlakatla. My amendment was introduced to spell out in no uncertain terms that Metlakatla would receive the same rights and jurisdiction granted to Lower 48 reservations. It was inclusive language.

“I cannot agree more that sexual and domestic violence is a blight on our state, especially in rural areas, and that what we are doing is not enough,” she continued.

“This is why the other language I included in the bill not was to reestablish and authorize funding for the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission to provide a permanent forum for the tribes, the state, and the federal government to work together on rural safety issues.

Landreth recoiled: “This all makes no sense. If the provision by its own terms only applied to reservations, Metlakatla would automatically be included; there would be no need for a special rule.”

Given the flap, the latest version of the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act may go by the wayside like its predecessors.

Bristol Bay Native Association General Counsel Bruce Baltar, legal adviser to 31 Alaska Native tribes, balked at the proposal. “I don't see any reason to support this version,” he said. “It's extremely disappointing.”

Landreth agreed. “It's a nonstarter for me.”

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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News from the crossroads of Indian Country
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U.S. Attorney’s Office declines to prosecute, charge former Pawhuska Village Five-Man Board members

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native American Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – The U.S. Attorney’s Office will not prosecute and issue formal charges against the former Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board members, announced Osage Attorney General Jeff Jones Aug. 6.

Speaking to the Osage Congress’ Government Operations Committee, Jones said in light of the U.S. Attorney’s Office’s decision, his office will pursue an investigation through the tribe’s judiciary. Other than concerns over the village’s constitution, no justification was announced for the Department of Justice’s non-involvement.

“They (the U.S. Attorney’s Office) informed me that they are not going to prosecute the Five-Man Board case,” Jones said. “They’ve chosen not to take that case so that puts it back into my lap. Just this morning at 10 a.m., the FBI agent brought back all the evidence we had given them so I’ve got it back in my office. I will be beginning to start prosecuting that.

“I was kind of disheartened that they didn’t take this. They’ve got a broader range of punishments than I do. In tribal court, all I can pursue is a misdemeanor, but I can still prosecute them.”

Under the tribe’s criminal code, the maximum penalty a person could receive for

an embezzlement conviction is one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000. If the value of the property embezzled is more than \$1,000, a sentence of banishment may be imposed for up to 10 years in addition to the fine and jail time. The same potential penalties also apply to those convicted of receiving stolen property.

Released last fall, the audit, conducted by the Osage Nation’s Office of Fiscal and Performance Review, shows that between October 2008 and July 2012, the Pawhuska Indian Village received \$857,025.93 in lease funds from the Osage Nation’s casino in Pawhuska. The casino is located on the southeastern corner of the village’s property held in trust.

Payment records show that \$50,732.37 of that money went to cover utility expenses with the City of Pawhuska for village residents and entities, including more than 40 payments for bills accrued by Joe Don Mashunkashey, then-chairman of the village’s governing five-man board.

The federal government’s decision to not pursue criminal charges does not impact the ability of the Internal Revenue Service to get involved. A timeline has not been announced, but an investigator from the IRS’ Oklahoma City office has been assigned to the case thanks to the village’s unpaid taxes.

BRIBERY

Continued from Page 1

the statement, which did not comment on former employee Franklin, said. “Since legal proceedings are presently ongoing, it is not appropriate for the nation to comment further at this time.

Flintco issued a statement saying it regretted the harm caused to the Choctaws and disclosed that a third, unnamed former employee, was under investigation. It didn’t name the former worker, but said it was cooperating with the investigation.

“Our company recognizes the Choctaw Nation was adversely impacted by the actions of Builders Steel, who influenced former Flintco employees and others to commit certain wrongdoings,” the statement said. “Flintco sincerely regrets this isolated incident and the negative impact it has had on the Choctaw Nation.

“We highly value our relationship with the Choctaw Nation and our company’s Native American heritage.

We will continue to cooperate with the government and the Choctaw Nation in any further investigation of persons involved.”

Robin F. Ballenger, a Cherokee Nation citizen and former owner of Flintco, also issued a statement.

“On January 1st of this year, my family sold Flintco. But I need to be clear that the reprehensible and shocking actions of these three ex-employees happened under my ownership. They flagrantly ignored Flintco’s rigorous ethics policy, and they betrayed the trust of my family, 700 honest and hardworking Flintco employees, and the Choctaw Nation. Their actions are heavy on my heart,” the statement read.

The indictments and federal officials laid out Aug. 5 specifically how the building firms and other subcontractors tried to defraud the tribe:

–Lauri and Brent Parsons agreed to provide more than \$5,000 in trips, vehicles, firearms, furniture, tuition, mortgage payments and other gifts to employees of the Choctaw Nation and Flintco, among other items. The company used the influence “to obtain bidding preference, higher prices and huge cash advances for services and materials not delivered,” according to the government.

–Lauri and Brent Parsons and Stewart agreed to submit \$345,000 in false invoices to the Choctaw Nation from Scott Rice – an office furniture company that Stewart worked for before he joined Builders Steel. The illegal proceeds were used to make a \$25,000 deposit on an African safari and purchase firearms, furniture, and additional gifts.

– Brent Parsons submitted a false invoice from the Worth Group to the tribe. The Worth Group was the architectural firm that designed many of the Choctaw Nation’s casinos. The illegal proceeds were used to pay for \$160,000 of trophy game killed by Brent Parsons at the Heartland Wildlife Ranch in Missouri.

– Eshenroder agreed to provide more than \$5,000 in building materials to remodel Franklin’s kitchen, in order to influence business with the Choctaw Nation.

SC couple say ‘mistake of law’ not OK, they are Veronica’s legal parents

MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – Years into their attempt to adopt a Cherokee girl, Matt and Melanie Capobianco say they can empathize with any sadness the girl’s biological father might be feeling after being ordered to turn her over to them.

In late 2011, the Charleston-area couple was in a lawyer’s office, tearfully handing over Veronica – whom they’d raised since birth – to the father, Dusten Brown, who lives in Nowata in northeastern Oklahoma.

“It was the worst day of our lives, but we also knew then and we know now that it isn’t about the adults. It’s about her,” Melanie Capobianco told The Associated Press on Wednesday. “We had to follow the rule of law. And if we were going to have a chance to get her back, we had to hand her over.”

The Capobiancos relinquished custody of the girl after a South Carolina court ruled in 2011 that federal law governing the placement of American Indian children favored Brown, a member of the Cherokee Nation, as her custodian.

That ruling was upheld by the state Supreme Court, which based its ruling on the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, a law seeking to keep Indian children from being taken from their homes and placed with non-Indian adoptive or foster parents.

The Capobiancos appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the state of South Carolina should determine the girl’s placement. The state’s highest court subsequently reversed its prior ruling, ordering South Carolina Family Court Judge Daniel Martin to finalize the couple’s adoption of the girl, which he did last week.

As part of that proceeding, Martin also approved a transition plan that laid out a gradual process for reintroducing the girl to the Capobiancos. According to the court, Brown failed to show up, with the girl, for the first of those scheduled gatherings on Aug. 4 – a date the couple says was set by the judge and to which Brown’s attorneys did not object.

“It was just really disappointing, every minute that ticked by and they didn’t show up,” Melanie Capobianco said.

Brown’s failure to appear prompted an order from Martin on Monday that Veronica, now 3, be immediately turned over to the couple.

The case file is sealed, but the judge’s order was obtained by WCBD-TV of

Charleston and posted on its website. In it, Martin wrote that he was asking state and federal prosecutors to immediately locate and transfer the girl.

Veronica has been living with Brown’s wife and parents in Nowata in northeastern Oklahoma while he serves a monthlong stint with the Oklahoma National Guard. A Guard spokesman said Tuesday that Brown is slated to return Aug. 21.

Due to his National Guard obligation, it is “physically and legally impossible for Dusten to comply with the current order” to show up with Veronica, Cherokee Nation Assistant Attorney General Chrissi Nimmo said in a statement emailed to reporters.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court denied Brown’s request to stop the South Carolina adoption proceedings. He is now pursuing custody of his daughter through the Oklahoma court system.

The girl’s biological mother, Chrissy Maldonado, who is not Indian and favors the adoption, has filed a lawsuit against the federal government claiming the Indian Child Welfare Act is unconstitutional, and has asked U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to declare some parts of it illegal.

Maldonado has claimed that the law uses race to determine with whom a child should live, and therefore is a violation of equal-protection laws.

Several American Indian groups are also pursuing a federal civil rights case, saying a hearing should be held to determine if it is in Veronica’s best interest to be transferred to South Carolina.

In a statement issued last week through his attorney, Brown asked the couple to “ask yourself if you really believe this is best for her.”

Since they said goodbye to Veronica more than a year and a half ago, the Capobiancos say they have had no contact with her, writing to her multiple times but only learning about the girl’s location through news media reports.

They have pledged to keep Veronica in touch with Brown and other Oklahoma relatives after the child has returned to South Carolina. But they said they have never given up hope she would return to live with them.

“We’re her legal parents,” Melanie Capobianco said. “Would any parent say, ‘OK, someone took my child away for 19 months because of a mistake of law,’ and then say, ‘Oh, it’s OK?’ I truly believe she will come out of this unscathed if we all work together.”

WARRANT

Continued from Page 1

he will not voluntarily comply with the transition plan that calls for his daughter to be weaned off of him and his family through a series of play dates with the Capobiancos.

Under South Carolina law, Brown’s attorneys have 10 days to ask Martin to reconsider his decision to finalize the adoption. That deadline – Wednesday – coincides with a family court hearing announced Thursday to hear pending motions in the case.

Due to a court-ordered seal on all records, it is unclear exactly what pending arguments will be considered. Cherokee Nation officials declined to elaborate Thursday afternoon.

Under Oklahoma law, Brown has 20 days to contest the decision, which was filed with the Nowata County, Okla., District Court as a foreign judgment earlier this month. The deadline is Aug. 23, two days after Brown is scheduled to return from National Guard training.

A separate hearing is scheduled for Sept. 4 in Cherokee Nation District Court. Brown’s wife and

parents, who live near Nowata, Okla., currently have guardianship of the three-year-old while Brown is at National Guard training thanks to a previous tribal court order. The September hearing could potentially extend that arrangement.

As of Saturday evening, Brown has not been taken into custody. According to reports in the Tulsa World and the Charleston Post and Courier, Brown expects to be arrested Sunday morning upon returning to base near Johnston, Iowa. The Oklahoma National Guard declined to comment on the arrest warrant, but issued a statement earlier in the week that

despite Martin’s request, it would not assist in the South Carolina court’s custody order.

Through a spokeswoman, the Cherokee Nation expressed its distaste for Saturday’s developments.

“It is morally reprehensible and legally questionable that South Carolina would take these measures when all parties involved were well aware of Dusten Brown’s legal obligation to complete National Guard duty,” Cherokee Nation Director of Communications Amanda Clinton said. “The attorneys, the courts and the adoptive couple

in this case were keenly aware of Dusten’s commitment, but clearly chose to ignore it. This case is still not yet fully litigated. So to take these steps when there are pending legal actions in South Carolina, Oklahoma and Cherokee Nation courts is appalling. Not only is the adoptive couple asking this child be ripped from her father while he is serving our country, they are also endangering his military career in the process. This is outrageous conduct.”

Through their spokeswoman, the Capobiancos declined to comment by press time.

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Indian Housing training conference coming to Tulsa

CHRISTINA GONZALEZ

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. – The Native Learning Center (NLC), a Seminole Tribe of Florida program dedicated to the development of cultural and quality of life skills for all Native and Indigenous people, announces the expansion of our trainings outside the state of Florida! The Indian Housing Training Conference has been moved, and now hosted at the DoubleTree by Hilton Tulsa Downtown, Tulsa, Okla. on September 10-13, 2013.

The NLC will provide housing professionals with the tools to maintain good homes, build affordable homes, improve public safety, and provide essential building blocks to a healthy community in the heart of Indian Country. Over the course of this four-day conference, participants

will be able to join critical sessions related to Tribal housing programs that are imperative to HUD’s Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program.

“By moving our Indian Housing Training Conference to a more centrally located region, we hope that more Tribes and TDHEs will have a better opportunity to participate in our free training. Our training will include NAHASDA and Indian Housing training to ensure financial accountability, growth, sustainability, and safety programs that every Native American community needs to thrive. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to ensure our Native American communities are being strengthened through better housing programs.” – Georgette Palmer Smith, (Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Choctaw Nation of

Oklahoma) Executive Director of the Native Learning Center.

The Indian Housing Training Conference sessions include, but are not limited to:

“The History of Indian Housing: How Much Progress Has Been Made?” - Instructor Kevin Fitzgibbons, Fitzgibbons and Associates, will provide an overview of the changes that have occurred and the lessons that have been learned in Indian housing. An understanding of this historical context, especially the relationship between Tribes and the Federal government, will help to create more effective housing policies in the future. This session will discuss the future of Indian housing highlighting the many successes Tribes have experienced in developing sustainable housing. “NAHASDA Essentials” –

Instructor Linda Lee Retka (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – White Earth Reservation), National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), will provide attendees with an exciting and interactive three-day training that includes a comprehensive introduction to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA). The training will be presented through case studies, group discussions, team games, lectures, and hands-on exercises.

“Policy Development: Theory and Practice” – Instructor Rodney Clements, (Mechoopda Maidu Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria), National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), will introduce attendees to both the theory and practice of policy development. Attendees will engage in

discussions, peer review sessions, and self-critique, all in order to promote better leadership and skills in the policy development process.

“Fighting Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Abuse Issues Within Indian Country” – Instructor Ron Gurley, (Cherokee Nation), Gurley & Associates, LLC, will provide up to date information on two very real dangers in Native America, methamphetamine and pharmaceutical abuse. Discussions and best practice sharing will culminate in the participants taking home a ‘Plan of Action’ that will address their particular local issues.

To register for the Indian Housing Training Conference and see a preliminary agenda, visit: <http://nativelearningcenter.com/indianhousingtrainingconference>



COURTESY

At the July 9, 2013 monthly Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition meeting, family members accepted an award and appreciation from committee members for the service of their loved one, the late Gary Robison. Family members include daughter Oney Roubedeaux and husband Richard, daughter Christy Lampe and grandson Braden Lampe, and granddaughter Joy Roy, accepting the honor.

ITEMC honors Gary Robison

JAMES LeCLAIR

Emergency Management Coordinator,
Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Gary Robison passed away earlier this year. He was a founding member to the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition. Gary worked with the Kaw Tribe for 10 years in Emergency Management and Safety. The fundamentals in his teaching and lessons in emergency management were taught to many within the State of Oklahoma. He was known throughout the state as a leader in the field with motivation in building partnerships and the equality of rights for Native American Tribes. Through his many conversations with people he led a fight to change the Stafford Act to address the concerns for the Native Americans nationwide. His compassion and strength is great motivation for the ITEMC

members to carry on his courageous effort in the freedom and equality of the Native American population.

The ITEMC works with Homeland Security, FEMA, NCAI, Oklahoma DEQ, Department of Health and IHS. It helps to develop specific curriculum to meet needs for core competency training and to participate in exercises for evaluation of educational goals. ITEMC is nationally recognized for providing training sessions and having breakout sessions that can help all tribal jurisdictions. ITEMC has also brought to the table the updates to the Stafford Act, Emergency Response data, vaccination updates, the latest of weather equipment, threat and hazard identifications as well as local experiences within our tribal boundaries.

(James LeClair is Gary’s friend of 14 years)

New W. Ind. historical park honoring Miami Nation

FAIRBANKS, Ind. (AP) – A new western Indiana historical park honors the heritage of the Miami Nation of Indians.

Close to 100 people, some dressed in garments signifying their Native American heritage, witnessed the dedication of the Waapaahsiki Siipiiwi Mound Historical Park at Fairbanks on Saturday.

Organizers say the name of the park, Waapaahsiki Siipiiwi, means Wabash River

in the Miamis’ Algonquian language. The park sits near the river about 80 miles southwest of Indiana.

Susan Petoskey of The Sullivan County American Indian Council told the Tribune-Star the park honors two Indian mounds.

Visitors can take a walk on a trail that starts with a sign that says “7 Grandfather Teachings” and continues on to list the teachings such as wisdom, love and respect.

Education Secretary apologizes for cut’s impact on reservations

WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, Wyo. (AP) – U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan says federal budget cuts have had a disproportionate impact on native people.

Duncan apologized for the cuts Thursday during a visit to Wyoming’s Wind River Indian Reservation, drawing applause from the students, teachers and

tribal leaders gathered to meet with him and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports health programs on the reservation stopped hiring and preschool and day care services cut hours as a result of the sequester cuts.

Jewell told the group Indian education isn’t “where any of us want it be”

and promised to listen to suggestions.

Jewell and Duncan played basketball with students at St. Stephens Indian School and attended a cultural danced at Arapahoe School during the visit.

Jewell also visited Grand Teton National Park while in Wyoming.

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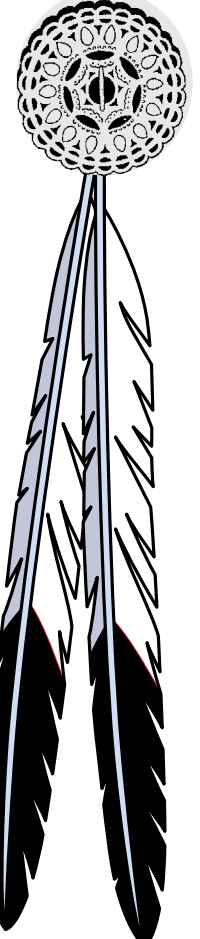


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The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Modoc Tribal Citizens Meeting at Wyandotte Community Center 1pm-3pm. Info call 918-961-0439 or 832-350-4530.

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

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The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from

6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

AUGUST 15-18
Wichita Tribal Dance at the Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko. Free event open to the public. 2pm-11pm. Contact Terri Parton, 405-247-2425.

AUGUST 17
The Family of John Moncravie, Jr. hopes you will be able to attend his Celebration of Life on August 17th. Through his work as an historian and philanthropist his legacy will live on throughout the Osage tribal community and we would be honored if you would join us in this celebration. Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center 2 - 5 in the afternoon, 1449 W. Main Street, Pawhuska, OK

AUGUST 22-25
137th Annual Ponca Powwow – home of the original fancy dance championship. Six miles south of Ponca City on HWY 177. Info call Oliver Littlecook 580-765-2501 or 580-352-2090 or see www.ponca.com.

AUGUST 24
American Indian Expo Poker Run, 9 am registration at Caddo Co. Fairgrounds, 10 am parade through downtown Anadarko. \$200 high hand. \$25 registration per bike. More info call Phillip Smith, 405-933-1536. T-Shirts given to first 50 riders!

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2
Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival & Powwow at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma. 9am-12:30am. Contact Sue Folsom, 580-924-8280.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Eufaula Indian Community 17th Annual Labor Day Pow-wow & Homecoming at Eastside Ballpark on Lake Eufaula 7:00pm Grand Entry, Free Admission. Contact JayDee Tiger, EIC Pow-wow Chairperson (918)707-0361

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Cherokee National Holiday, various locations, Tahlequah. See ad pg 8

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1
Ottawa Powwow & Celebration at Adawe Park, 11400 S 613 Rd, Miami. Free and open to the public. Friday 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-midnight. Contact Craig Satepauhoodle, 918-542-1536.


AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
Intertribal Powwow, Lake Shawnee, Topeka, KS. Dance specials. Admission \$8 or \$6 in advance. Info: www.shawneecountyalliedtribes.org

SEPTEMBER 6-8
Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow at Wyandotte Nation Tribal Grounds, E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte. Grand entries Friday 8pm, Sat 1:30pm & 7pm, Sun 1:30pm. Contact Sherri Clemons, 918-678-2297.

SEPTEMBER 7
Indian Taco Sale at Haikey Chapel Indian United Methodist Church, 11am – 3pm. 8815 E 101st Street, Tulsa. Taco and ice tea \$7

SEPTEMBER 12-14
Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville. Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15
Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida,




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NATIVE TIMES

Millions left in American Indian farmers settlement

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – It’s an unusual twist for Washington these days: There’s money left over from a \$680 million settlement the federal government awarded

American Indian farmers in 2010 after decades of discrimination.

A three-year claims process is complete, and more than half the settlement money is still available. The plaintiffs want to use the unexpected \$380 million windfall to

form a foundation that could be the largest Indian country has ever seen.

Joseph Sellers, the lead lawyer for the American Indian plaintiffs, said the amount of money left over was a big surprise to those involved. It turned

out that many potential recipients had died, lost any evidence of discrimination or felt too distrustful of the government to even apply, he said. Lawyers expected around 10,000 people to file claims and the remainder to be in the hundreds of

thousands of dollars, but less than 4,000 people sought part of the settlement.

The settlement agreement calls for any left over money to be distributed to American Indian farmer organizations, but none of those groups was set up to handle so much

money.

So the plaintiffs decided the best way to handle the funds was to set up a new foundation, led by Indian leaders, to help American Indian farmers and

See **MILLIONS** on Page 4



ROSAN SPOTTSVILLE | COURTESY PHOTO
Sarah Ortegon, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, was crowned Miss Native American USA Aug. 3 in Tempe, Ariz.

Wyoming woman crowned Miss Native American USA

ALEJANDRA SILVA
The Riverton Ranger

RIVERTON, Wyo. (AP) – Sarah Ortegon said she never prepared an acceptance speech because she didn’t anticipate being crowned Miss Native American USA 2013.

But when her name was called Aug. 3, she quickly collected her thoughts and accepted a colorful sash and beaded crown in front of

dozens of spectators at the Tempe Center for Arts in Tempe, Ariz.

“I worked really hard to get into the pageant,” Ortegon said afterward. “(But) I didn’t think I would win.”

Ortegon is a member of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes. She was born in and lives in Denver and is a

See **CROWNED** on Page 11

Okla. Gov. signs Cherokee dad over to South Carolina



SUE OGROCKI | ASSOCIATED PRESS
Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, left, speaks to the media before the start of a special session of the legislature in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

SALLISAW, Okla. – Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown is still a free man – despite Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signing an extradition order to send him to South Carolina.

Brown, the biological father of a three-year-old girl known in the press as “Baby Veronica,” turned himself in to the Sequoyah County sheriff’s department Thursday morning. He posted bail and was released on his own recognizance before noon.

The Nowata native is wanted in South Carolina for custodial interference, a felony charge that can carry a jail sentence of up to five years if

See **DAD** on Page 2



COURTESY
Tex Hall, left, with Elouise Cobell on Capitol Hill in 2002. The group was attending a meeting of the House Resources Committee on the Indian Trust.

Sorting out Cobell, Salazar settlements

KARIN EAGLE
Native Sun News

RAPID CITY- The recent rash of unprecedented payouts from different lawsuit settlements in Indian country has brought about more confusion than the economic relief and sense of justice anticipated.

In a recent phone call to Native Sun

News, Marie Conroy Lange, a Lakota elder, expressed her concerns about what she had mistakenly thought was federal funding coming to the Pine Ridge Reservation. In fact the money she was referring to was the Cobell and Salazar payments made to individuals and also to the tribes.

“I misunderstood what was going on,

See **COBELL** on Page 11



COURTESY PHOTO
Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder has vowed to never change his team’s name.

NY tribe launching radio ad against Redskins name

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – An American Indian tribe in upstate New York said Thursday it will launch a radio ad campaign pressing for the Washington Redskins to shed a

name often criticized as offensive.

The Oneida Indian Nation said the first ad will run on radio stations in Washington before the team hosts the Philadelphia Eagles in its season opener Monday night. In the ad, Oneida

Nation Representative Ray Halbritter says NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell should “stand up to bigotry” by denouncing “the racial slur” in the team’s name.

“We do not deserve to be

See **RADIO** on Page 10

Osage Nation battles wind farm

■The Osage Nation is arguing that the farm could kill eagles that nest nearby.

PAWHUSKA, Okla. (AP) – Construction on a wind farm in Osage County has been temporarily set back.

The Osage Nation is arguing that the farm could kill eagles that nest nearby, the Tulsa World reported Monday. Eagles are an important bird to the Osage culture.

Wind Capitol Group, a St. Louis-based energy organization, says construction of the 94 turbines will begin by the end of this year. Wind Capitol Group officials previously said they hoped to begin construction this summer.

The group says it is working closely with local officials on required

authorizations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a voluntary eagle take permit, which would allow for up to three eagles to be killed each year by turbines with no penalty to the wind farm owners.

The Osage Nation, however, is now pushing for full archaeological research in the wind farm's acreage, saying the area is some of the densest in all of Oklahoma for culturally significant tribal sites, such as camp sites and burials.

“We’re sitting and waiting on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make a decision on whether they are going to enforce federal law ... and order an archaeology study, which they did but never brought the tribe in for consultation,” Osage Nation Assistant Chief Scott BigHorse said.

“Right now we feel like we’re guinea

pigs. We are going to be the first tribe ever that’s going to have a wind farm receive an eagle-kill permit in their back yard.”

He said the fight against the wind farm would not involve court action until possibly after the agency issues the permit.

Jerry Thompson, the service’s chief of the Southwest Region Migratory Birds Permits office, is in charge of issuing the bald eagle kill permit.

He said an environmental impact study that addresses cultural issues will soon be sent to the Osage Nation and several other tribes that may be affected. The agency also plans to meet with representatives from the Osage Nation and Wind Capitol Group on Sept. 12.

Experts see no end in sight for custody case

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – Law experts say a custody fight over a 3-year-old Cherokee girl shows no signs of resolution, and one says it could take several years more for the issue to be decided.

University of Oklahoma College of Law professor Taiawagi Helton says resolution to the case of young Veronica could take years if the matter again goes from state court to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Veronica’s father, Dusten Brown, has been fighting in Oklahoma and tribal court to raise his child. Matt and Melanie Capobianco, of Charleston, S.C., say they are the rightful parents and have a South Carolina court order to prove it.

Their case has played out in several Oklahoma courtrooms.

A gag order has been in place throughout, so it is unclear what has been argued.

DAD

Continued from Page 1

convicted. A Charleston, S.C., family court judge issued the warrant last month after Brown and his daughter did not attend a court-ordered visitation with an adoption counselor and Matt and Melanie Capobianco, the couple from James Island, S.C., who have been trying to adopt Brown’s daughter for almost four years.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 4, Fallin signed the extradition request from South Carolina, claiming Brown had not acted in good faith in custody negotiations with the Capobiancos.

In accordance with Oklahoma law, a hearing on the potential extradition is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Fallin, who had 90 days to act on the request, originally said she would not sign off on the order until after Brown’s now-postponed hearing in Sequoyah County District Court, originally scheduled for Sept. 12. Brown turned himself into law enforcement there last month after being allowed to leave National Guard training in Johnston, Iowa, and was out on a \$10,000 fugitive bond. However, within 24 hours of her original statement, Fallin reversed course and threatened to sign the warrant if Brown

did not allow the Capobiancos to visit the child.

“I said I was going to give Mr. Brown an opportunity to work out an arrangement with the adoptive parents,” Fallin said Friday morning during a press conference.

“That happened for a while. Then it stopped.”

Due to a gag order in the case, Brown and the Capobiancos were unable to comment on the developments. However, Brown’s Tulsa attorney, Clark Brewster, told the Associated Press that his client had allowed the Capobiancos to visit the child several times while in Oklahoma and canceled a scheduled visit Saturday in Tahlequah during the Cherokee National Holiday at the advice of the Cherokee Nation Marshal service. Brewster also told the Associated Press that Brown’s legal team offered to meet with Fallin’s advisers to discuss the warrant’s legal issues, but the meeting did not happen.

The custody decision is still under review by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Thanks to an emergency stay issued on Aug. 30, Brown’s daughter is still in the custody of her biological family. Fallin’s decision to sign the extradition order does not impact the child’s current placement.

“The Oklahoma Supreme Court has stayed the transfer of custody of Veronica Brown, and even with this knowledge, Gov. Fallin has hastily inserted herself into the judicial

process as Dusten seeks his due process,” Cherokee Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin Jr., said. “Instead of allowing the courts to decide this case, Gov. Fallin has used her authority to attempt to coerce Mr. Brown into handing over his daughter. The civil rights of both Dusten and Veronica Brown are being ignored. Dusten has the right to due process, and the right to object to the unethical adoption that already took his daughter away once. The events of today, and the events that have unfolded over the past four years should frighten every parent, and more specifically, every single father in Oklahoma.”

As of Friday afternoon, the Oklahoma Supreme Court was considering appeals from Brown on decisions from both Nowata County District Court and Muskogee County District Court that would force him to hand the child over to the Capobiancos.



Veronica Brown sees her father off July 22, 2013 at Tulsa International Airport as he departs for his mandatory National Guard training exercises.

Muskogee County District Judge Thomas Alford heard arguments in the case Sept. 4 after the Cherokee County District Court judge originally assigned to the Capobiancos’ writ of habeas corpus filing recused herself for undisclosed reasons.

No time line has been given for when the Oklahoma Supreme Court will issue a ruling.



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Note: Not all medicine wheels are the same from tribe to tribe. This medicine wheel is intended to be a general representation and does not refer to a specific tribe's symbol of the four directions.

Jim Thorpe, Pa., fights to keep body of namesake

■ His sons want to bury him on Sac and Fox land near Stroud, Okla., about 15 miles north of where he grew up in Prague.

Few come specifically to visit Thorpe’s Pa. roadside memorial, and the town’s economy certainly isn’t dependent on its connection to the man.

MICHAEL RUBINKAM and KEITH COLLINS
Associated Press

JIM THORPE, Pa. (AP) – The hand-lettered donation jar on Anne Marie Fitzpatrick’s store counter says what many residents of this well-preserved Victorian-era town are thinking and feeling lately: “Keep Jim Thorpe in Jim Thorpe.”

The surviving sons of the famous American Indian athlete have long fought to get the remains of their father moved from Jim Thorpe, Pa., to tribal lands in Oklahoma, where he was born, and they recently won a crucial legal victory that put them close to their goal.

But Jim Thorpe isn’t letting its Olympian namesake go without a fight. Residents and business owners are helping to raise money for the town’s appeal – to be filed this month – saying they have honored, appreciated and respected a man long considered one of the 20th century’s best athletes.

Hence the donation jar on the counter of Fitzpatrick’s gift shop, prominently displayed between the cash register and a rack of cat figurines.

“We have no intention of letting him go,” said Fitzpatrick, an organizer of the town’s annual Jim Thorpe birthday bash. “There is



Jim Thorpe was a football, baseball and track star who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics, then later starred as the Indian in B-movies and struggled financially toward the end of his life. He died without a will in 1953 at age 64.

a pride, and many, many people that you speak to as you go through the town share that pride.”

Thorpe was a football, baseball and track star who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics, then later starred as the Indian in B-movies and struggled financially toward the end of his life. He died without a will in 1953 at age 64.

After Oklahoma’s governor balked at the cost of a planned monument to the athlete, third wife Patricia had Thorpe’s body removed in the midst of his funeral service and sent it to northeastern Pennsylvania, where she struck a deal with two merging towns – Mauch

Chunk and East Mauch Chunk – to build a memorial and name the new town after him. His remains are kept in a mausoleum surrounded by statues and interpretive signage.

Thorpe was a football, baseball and track star who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics, then later starred as the Indian in B-movies and struggled financially toward the end of his life. He died without a will in 1953 at age 64. “All this time we’ve wanted his body back because of the way that it was taken away from us,” he said. “And we had no authority.”

His sons want to bury him on Sac and Fox land near Stroud, Okla., about 15 miles

north of where he grew up in Prague.

In April, U.S. District Judge Richard Caputo ruled in favor of Thorpe, his brother Richard, and the Sac and Fox tribe to which their father belonged, saying the town of Jim Thorpe amounts to a museum under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The borough council voted to appeal the ruling to the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and written arguments are due Sept. 23. The town has found support from Jim Thorpe’s grandsons, who say it has done right by him.

“The town has done nothing but honor and

respect and love my grandpa,” said John Thorpe, of Lake Tahoe, Calif. “The state of Oklahoma did not want to erect a mausoleum or do anything to honor him. They weren’t willing to do what the town of Jim Thorpe did.”

John Thorpe said he was taking part in a sweat lodge ceremony in Texas three years ago when, unbidden, a medicine man told him his grandfather had made contact and said, “I am at peace, and I want no more pain created in my name.”

He said that helped confirm his belief that his grandfather’s tomb should remain where it is.

So what will happen if Thorpe’s body is no longer there?

The borough on the western edge of Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains is popular with tourists and frequently appears on lists of America’s prettiest towns. But that is due largely to its vibrant main street, stunning mansions and location at the bottom of a steep gorge carved by the Lehigh River. Few come specifically to visit Thorpe’s roadside memorial, and the town’s economy certainly isn’t dependent on its connection to the man.

But the psychological loss will be undeniable. The athlete who never set foot in the town named after him has become an important part of its identity. The high school’s athletic teams are named, after all, the Olympians.

“Look, if it turns out that Jim Thorpe is going to be transported somewhere else, then let’s accompany him and make it as graceful and honorable a transition as it could possibly be,” said Dan Hugos, co-owner of the Mauch Chunk Opera House in Jim Thorpe.

“And let’s shake the hands of the new people who are going to be caring for him. But we will still continue to do our part to remember who he was and remember his name.”

Riverside cancels entire football season

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

ANADARKO, Okla. – Citing low numbers, a Bureau of Indian Education school canceled its entire 2013 football season just before its home opener.

Riverside Indian School, located near Anadarko, announced the move via a one-sentence statement on its website Friday morning. The Indians were scheduled to play Oklahoma City Seeworth Academy that night.

When reached Friday morning for comment, coach James Sutteer deferred all questions to the school’s athletic director, Patrick Moore. Moore

did not respond by deadline.

A Class 2A school, last year’s team went 1-9 and was shut out four times. Since 2010, the team has gone a combined 2-28. The school’s football program set the Oklahoma prep record for most consecutive losses, dropping 51 straight games in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

David Jackson, football director for the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association, said Friday’s decision by the Anadarko school is not without precedent.

“We’ve had other schools drop football because of numbers, but it is usually a temporary thing,” he said. “It is not uncommon that it happens with some of our smaller schools. Might have a small

class of juniors or seniors to where there aren’t enough kids to play in a year. A lot of schools will start a season, then lose kids due to injuries or eligibility issues through the course of the year and have to forfeit games.

“It’s happened at various times of the year – sometimes they’ll forfeit about now, sometimes it will be a few weeks into the year.”

OSSAA’s deadline for establishing and implementing a co-op agreement between two or more member schools has already passed, so Riverside students still wanting to play football this season would have to transfer to another school and apply for an OSSAA hardship waiver in order to be eligible.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Conn. delegation faults US new tribal recognition plan

MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) – Proposed rule changes that American Indian groups say could help bring more casinos to Connecticut are coming under criticism from the state’s congressional delegation, which argues that the U.S. Interior Department is watering down the criteria for granting federal recognition to tribes.

In a letter sent to the department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs, the state’s two senators and five House representatives wrote that the proposed changes would significantly affect state residents. The governor and local leaders in towns that host state reservations are also opposing the proposals, which could renew long-simmering battles over land claims by making it easier for local

tribes to win acknowledgment.

The delegation argues Connecticut appears to be singled out, citing a proposal to give Indian groups a pass on other requirements for recognition as long as some descendants have lived on a state reservation since 1934.

“Research from the Connecticut Attorney General’s office indicates that only Connecticut has had state reservation lands in existence since 1934,” the federal lawmakers said in their letter Wednesday.

A draft proposal of new rules for recognition was unveiled in June by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which has faced criticism for years that its process is slow and inconsistent. Among other changes is a suggestion to require that tribes demonstrate continuity only since 1934. Kevin Washburn, Assistant Interior

Secretary for Indian affairs, said earlier this summer the goal is to ensure the process is fair, efficient and transparent.

Connecticut currently has two federally-recognized tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe, which own the country’s two largest Indian-owned casinos in the Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun.

If approved, the changes could benefit three other Connecticut tribes – the Schaghticoques of Kent, the Golden Hill Paugussetts of Trumbull and Colchester and the Eastern Pequots of North Stonington. Federal acknowledgment can bolster a tribe’s claims to surrounding land, eliminate regulatory barriers to commercial development and bring increased health and education benefits to members.

But Samuel Dixon, the

New Haven-based leader of a group that has petitioned for recognition as the True Golden Hill Paugussett Tribal Nation, said acknowledgment would bring no greater prize than a way into the gambling industry.

“Federal recognition grants you casino status. I don’t know that they offer much else,” said Dixon, a Yale-educated lawyer.

Alan Russell, leader of one of two rival Schaghticoke factions bidding for recognition, said his tribe also hopes to pursue a casino.

“I’m just one person,” he said. “That’s what the tribe wants.”

In the delegation’s letter, the lawmakers argued the proposed changes would effectively give tribes whose bids for recognition have failed in the past another opportunity at acknowledgement, and they ask the Bureau of Indian Affairs to scrap the plan.

MILLIONS

Continued from Page 1

ranchers.

“We believe it would be the largest philanthropic organization devoted to Native Americans in the history of this country,” Sellers said.

The plaintiffs notified the federal court of their desire to form the new organization Friday. The court will then have to approve it.

Sellers said the idea is that a larger fund could make annual grants to all of the smaller organizations and have a longer-term impact on those groups than dispersing the funds all at once.

According to the most recent count by the Agriculture Department, now five years old, there were about 80,000 American Indian farm operators throughout the country, or less than 3 percent of total operators.

If approved, the foundation would give money to smaller groups to train American Indian farmers to help them become more effective at farming and also at seeking government help, including assisting people who apply for farm loans and making sure the government is representing their interests. The new fund could pay out tens of millions a year just off interest generated from the fund, Sellers said.

Claryca Mandan of North Dakota, a plaintiff in the case, said American Indians are concerned about losing land, as they have for generations, and such training and education could help many people keep their farms and pass them on to younger generations.

“This is our chance at leaving a long term legacy,” she said. “It wasn’t anticipated in the original agreement, but it’s probably one of the best outcomes in the case, to leave a legacy like this.”

The original lawsuit, named after George and Marilyn Keepseagle of Fort Yates, N.D., was filed in 1999 and contends Indian farmers and ranchers lost hundreds of millions of dollars over several decades because they were denied USDA loans that instead went to their white neighbors. The government settled a similar lawsuit filed by black farmers around the time the Indian lawsuit was filed.

After more than a decade in the court, the government offered the settlement in October 2010. The settlement also included \$80 million in farm debt forgiveness for the Indian plaintiffs and a series of initiatives to try and alleviate racism against American Indians and other minorities in rural farm loan offices.

At the time, President Barack Obama said the settlement “helps strengthen the nation to nation relationship and underscores the federal government’s commitment to treat all citizens fairly.”

HUD awards \$9.6 million to 12 Oklahoma tribes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded almost \$9.6 million to 12 Native American tribes in Oklahoma.

The funding was announced Tuesday by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and HUD Regional Administrator Tammye Treviño. The money was awarded to improve or create housing and economic development opportunities for low to moderate-income families.

The grants are from HUD’s Indian Community Development Block Grant Program. The program provides direct grants for developing Indian and Alaska Native communities, including housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities, primarily for low and moderate income persons.

In Oklahoma, the grants went to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, the Cherokee Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Comanche Nation Housing Authority and the Iowa, Kaw, Muscogee (Creek), Ottawa, Quapaw, Tonkawa and Wyandotte tribes.

Opponents seek ouster of Blackfeet council

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) – An opposition group pushed for the ouster of Blackfeet Tribal Business Council members Tuesday during a rally outside the tribal offices that attendees said led to at least five arrests.

Critics of Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. held the rally after the traditional customs court, a board led by tribal elders, banished Sharp and four others from tribal government under an Aug. 25 order.

But Sharp indicated he had no plans to cave to the critics’ demands, telling the Flathead Beacon that the customs court “has no legal authority over the tribal council.”

The customs court order would replace Sharp and his allies with a 13-person interim council that would remain in place until an election is held. Overseeing the council would be a new eight-member Cultural Council whose members were chosen at the time the customs court made its ruling.

None of the current Tribal Business Council members were selected for the interim council.

Roberta Crossguns, an attorney for suspended council member Cheryl Little Dog, says the sitting council showed no signs of leaving.

Five people were arrested at Tuesday’s rally, Crossguns said, adding that those who participated planned to keep up their offensive

against the council until its members step aside.

“We’re trying to be peaceful. We don’t want confrontations,” she said.

She said attempts to get the Bureau of Indian Affairs to intervene have gone unanswered.

BIA representatives did not immediately respond to telephone calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Little Dog is one of five council members suspended or ousted since last summer, along with dozens of tribal authorities, in a year of bitter political infighting among Blackfeet leaders.

Sharp has since governed with a smaller council under an emergency declaration, as opponents protest their rule as illegal.

The political unrest has been heightened by the arrest of state Sen. Shannon Augare, one of the sitting council members, on charges of obstructing a peace officer and drunken and reckless driving from a traffic stop in May.

Augare’s father, Delye “Shanny” Augare, also was arrested with other leaders of a Blackfeet program for troubled youth on allegations they embezzled money from the federal program.

Both the father and son have pleaded not guilty to the charges.



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Study shows same issues affecting Indian education in 1928 still have influence

■ *While it may seem as if this paints a bleak picture for the future of college graduation rates for American Indian students, the opposite is true.*

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
*The Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies*

There are few sights as moving as watching over 100 newly minted American Indian college graduates proceed in full academic regalia adorned with tribal touches as they walk across a stage to receive honor for their accomplishments. Whether these students have earned their Associates, Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate degrees, the message is clear: American Indian students can be successful in higher education.

However, the number of American Indian college students who enter into higher education and leave their chosen institution having earned degrees is dismal compared to their non-Native counterparts. There are several explanations for this, including lack of college readiness, geographic limitations on proximity to higher education institutions, cultural and family responsibilities in students' home communities, and increasing costs associated with higher education, limiting both access and students' ability to continue through degree completion.

These limitations, along with many others, are not new to American Indian education. Historically, American Indian students have faced these issues while groups of dedicated American Indian scholars, tribal leaders, communities, and families have sought to alleviate problems of access to promote American Indian sovereignty through increased opportunities in higher education. According to a 2013 national study conducted by Mackey and Warner, *For Our Children: A Study and Critical Discussion of the Influences on American Indian and Alaska*

Native Education Policy, and educators and educational leaders from across the United States indicated that the same issues influencing American Indian education in 1928 as stated in the Merriam Report continue to influence education in a similar manner today.

While it may seem as if this paints a bleak picture for the future of college graduation rates for American Indian students, the opposite is true. Historic setbacks have provided educators, leaders, and policy-makers with crucial information that can lead to improved strategies for increasing the numbers of American Indian students both represented in and graduating from institutions of higher education. One of the most critical components to successfully reaching this goal is strategic collaboration between higher education institutions and the Native communities they serve along with inter-tribal and inter-state collaboration among Native people.

"Fundamentally, we are at a point of taking all of the good work done by scholars before us and striving to incorporate that collective knowledge into a newer form of decolonization—decolonization of the mind and spirit" says Dr. Hollie Mackey, Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Oklahoma and enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Nation. According to Mackey, this includes shifting non-Native peoples' attitudes and knowledge about American Indians



PHOTO COURTESY UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Thousands of American Indian students who may not otherwise have had access to higher education graduate from tribal colleges every year.

through integration of curricular and leadership perspectives of American Indians into mainstream educational settings at colleges and universities. "Understanding the historic and contemporary experience and contributions of Native people should not be relegated to an elective, but should be considered part of a core curriculum in every institution in this nation; pre-school through graduate school" states Mackey.

A number of institutions across the United States have implemented programming and support for recruitment and retention of American Indian students, spanning multiple disciplines. Additionally, research centers across the nation examine issues of equity and access for Native populations and devise recommendations for increasing the numbers of students who attend and complete a degree program at an institution of higher education. Public, tribal, and private schools serving students in pre-school through 12th grade along with state departments of education in states serving higher

numbers of American Indian students have developed models for culturally appropriate curriculum and college readiness strategies. National organizations such as



Dr. Henrietta Mann

NIEA and AIHEC have become clearinghouses of resources and thought on education issues. Now is the time for Native communities that once worked in isolation from one another to come together to ensure a brighter educational future for our children, a future where higher education is an attainable

goal supported by a stable structure of collaboration among American Indian people.

As Dr. Henrietta Mann has noted, a generation of educators, scholars, and activists risked much by opening the doors to higher education that were previously closed to American Indian youth. Educators and scholars who have benefitted from these open doors are tasked with carrying on the legacy of this work to break down the walls as well. Academic regalia should be as common a sight each spring as the traditional regalia seen at area powwows. Through collaboration and strategic policy influence, the day will come when higher education institutions will need larger stages and venues to support the numbers of American Indian graduates filling their halls, and that will be a moving sight indeed.

Oklahoma Legislative Action: American Indian Education Initiatives for the 2014 Session

CASEY ROSS-PETHERICK, CEO,
Advocates for Native Issues, LLC

In the 2014 Legislative Session, the Oklahoma State Legislature will be hearing from advocates for American Indian education on several very important initiatives.

Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education

A member of the House of Representatives will be introducing a reauthorization of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act. Representative Seneca Scott from State District 72 plans to author the extension for the legislation, which expires on July 1, 2014.

The Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act was passed by the Oklahoma legislature in 2010, for the purpose of recognizing "the unique relationship that Oklahoma enjoys with the Indian tribes located within the state and how Native Americans and Indian tribes play a pivotal role in the educational system of the state in light of this special relationship". The Council was created to "promote culturally relevant learning environments, educational opportunities and instructional material for Native American students enrolled in the public schools of the state".

The Council, which has been seated since

2010, has coordinated efforts to carry out the provisions of the Act, including:

- Making recommendations to the State Board of Education relating to Native American student education in the state
- Promoting educational opportunities for Native American students in Oklahoma
- Promoting the improvement of the quality of education for Native American students in Oklahoma
- Advocating for the interests of Native American students
- Evaluating the impact of public education on Native American students

Although many of the functions of the Council center on the needs of Native students, the Act recognizes that, "because of the number of Native American students enrolled in public schools in the state, the objectives will positively affect the educational success of ALL public school students".

Reauthorization of the Act is necessary to allow the Council to continue its work on these important initiatives. The collaboration of the Council members has created a dialogue that was previously missing from conversations in education, and has provided a mechanism for developing synergy between tribal and non-tribal stakeholders. In addition to increased collaboration, the Council has achieved the

goal of bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders interested in education for Oklahoma public schools, including state organizations, tribal organizations and educators, who have started the work of identifying resources for the enhancement of educational opportunities for all Oklahoma students.

Contact your state legislator to let him/her know you support the work of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education.

Curriculum Enhancement

Oklahoma's curriculum for public schools continues to undergo significant changes, and American Indian education advocates continue the pursuit to have Native American history, culture, language, and tribal government courses taught in public schools. An alliance between the State Department of Education and education departments of the tribes in our state will prove effective at developing and delivering an accurate and culturally-relevant curriculum for the benefit of all Oklahoma public school students. Let your legislator know that you support integration of accurate American Indian curriculum in our public schools!

Native Language Preservation

With 38 federally-recognized tribes in Oklahoma, our state educational system is

fortunate to have the unique potential to offer native language training to students while promoting the use and preservation of one of our state's most valuable cultural assets. American Indian education advocates will be continuing the dialogue with legislators, policymakers and administrators to expand the native language course offerings in public schools, while also supporting cultural preservation. Let your legislator know you support the Native Language preservation and instruction!

Funding Issues

American Indian education advocates will be communicating with Oklahoma legislators to continue discussions towards a strategy for improving the educational experience of all Oklahoma public school students. Initiatives identified by American Indian education advocates must be funded for successful implementation. While the state budget and appropriations process is underway, Indian education advocates will remind state legislators that tribes, tribal businesses and tribal citizens all contribute to the coffers of the state. In fact, tribal contributions from gaming compacts alone have averaged over \$120 million per year for the past several years. Contact your legislator to let him/her know you support increased funding for American Indian education initiatives!

Tribal college enrollment, Native graduate rates rise

HOLLIE J. MACKEY
*University of Oklahoma
The Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies*

Tribal colleges have been successful across the nation in preparing American Indian students for meaningful employment, transition into four-year institutions, and beyond. At a time when traditional higher education institutions struggle to recruit and retain talented American Indian youth, tribal college enrollment continues to increase.

Tribal colleges meet the needs of Native communities in unique ways, primarily through culturally appropriate curriculum and academic support that reflects an understanding of tribal culture. They foster a sense of belonging and create a space for students to flourish without the additional pressures of navigating the overwhelming change that often accompanies colleges and universities. Additionally, students have the opportunity to learn from Native faculty and support staff, which not only provides them with role models; but help in student identity development, an essential component to retention and graduation.

Transitioning from K-12 education to higher education is difficult for all students; however, this can be exceptionally difficult for Native students. Academic

outcome statistics indicate that many American Indian students are not academically prepared by their high schools for the rigor of college courses. Along with this, many students and their families are unfamiliar with the structure and expectations of colleges and universities, leading many students to drop out and return home. Tribal colleges create an opportunity for students to improve their academic and critical thinking skills while progressing towards a degree completion, ideally preparing them for eventual transition into a traditional institution to complete their Bachelor's degree.

Tribal colleges also promote community and economic development opportunities for the communities in which they serve by offering professional development, GED prep, and a wide array of other programs that feed directly back into the community. Many offer AP courses for college credit to area high school students and personal development courses such as parenting of financial literacy for those not interested in pursuing degrees.

As the numbers of tribal colleges increase, so to might the numbers of American Indian graduates. Whether tribal colleges focus on community and economic development, trade specific education, or college readiness, all serve the needs of the community in important and meaningful ways.

BIE restructuring aimed toward higher productivity, more efficiency

GREGORY ANDERSON, M.Ed.
Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education

The Bureau of Indian Education is currently in the process of streamlining its current organizational structure to meet imminent budgetary constraints and to improve the quality of education provided to Native American students. The organization must transform the way the business of education is approached so the focus will be on developing programs that ensure that every child is receiving quality services. When implemented properly, the restructuring will provide a more balanced and effective department that will strengthen the environment that supports innovation, creates opportunities and provides positive systemic reform and sustainability.

The endeavor to develop a coherent strategy, adopt policies, and implement them with an assurance that the organization functions with an enhanced focus on long term planning and policy development is an extraordinary challenge. However, it is understood that failure to address these organizational issues limits the Bureau of Indian Education's ability to compete with other federal agencies for funding to support goals, objectives and outcomes that are conducive to improving services to Native Americans. The Bureau of Indian Education and its leadership should be supported in their efforts to expand educational opportunities and improve educational outcomes while addressing the governance paradigm that stresses the need for higher productivity and efficiency of Federal agencies.

Organizational restructuring should have as a fundamental goal the facilitation of clear, open communication that can enable organizational learning and clarify accountability for results. Ultimately, it is critical for any changes to be

carefully documented and clearly communicated with Indian Affairs leadership, Tribes, Tribal Leaders and other stakeholders. The BIE must work directly with tribes and through the Open Government Directive to evaluate, structure, and negotiate strategic alternatives for organizational restructuring. This is vital in creating and fostering a collaborative environment that supports organizational priorities and changes. This can be achieved through the consistent and complete implementation of Presidential Executive Order 13175 and compliance with President Obama's commitment to improve Native American education as reflected in Presidential Executive Order 13592.

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribal governments, established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions. Included in this relationship is the obligation to engage in consultation and collaboration with tribal officials when developing policy decisions that have tribal implications, strengthening the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes, and reducing the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes. More specifically, prior to implementation of a plan, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education should exercise the exchange of meaningful dialogue through tribal consultation, which is a critical ingredient of a sound and productive Federal-tribal relationship. These consultations would be critical in developing the most effective framework to successfully raise the bar for Indian education.

It is understood that restructuring could result in the consolidation or closure of several BIE offices across the United States. It is critical for these changes to be carefully determined by

a comprehensive analysis of regional services and demographics and implemented proficiently to achieve maximum sustainable benefit to the organization. Furthermore, leadership should ensure that all potential changes are consistent with the administrative priorities established by the DOI Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs to ensure limited resistance from all affected Tribes and Indian education organizations.

As we look ahead, I see great opportunities for the BIE to demonstrate effectiveness and relevance to the Native American people of the South and Eastern United States by supporting the BIE-Oklahoma Area Education Office in Oklahoma City. It is my experience that the BIE-OAEO provides pragmatic and progressive opportunities in these areas through programs, services and technical assistance. Additionally, the OAEO successfully represents the BIE in its central mission - to be a leader in educational innovation that provides Native American students with a meaningful education and a successful future.

The census of 2010 indicated there are approximately 2.8 million Native Americans in the United States. Almost 1/3 or 790,000 are members of 39 Federally recognized tribes located in Oklahoma. Geographically, Oklahoma is centrally located in the United States, equidistant between both coasts and ideally positioned to serve all states and tribal nations. These statistics and facts affirm the need and support our position that the Oklahoma Area Education Office should not be affected by restructuring. The state of Oklahoma, 39 tribes and 325,000 Native Americans that reside here provides the perfect environment to cultivate the next generation of Native American leadership.

SAVE THE DATE

2013 Indian Education Summit

October 21-23, 2013 • Norman, OK

On October 21-23rd, Indian Education Directors, BIA/BIE/IHS employees, PK-20 educators, tribal service providers, administrators, counselors, State Department of Education employees, legislators, and tribal leaders from throughout the State of Oklahoma will convene at the NCED Conference Center & Hotel in Norman, OK for the 2013 Indian Education Summit. A wide variety of sessions featuring the following strands will be highlighted: common core standards/curriculum; tribal services; culture and language; and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The theme of the summit is "Indian Education for All."

The conference will kick-off with a welcome reception on Monday from 4-6 p.m. to which tribal leaders from the 39 federally recognized tribes have been invited. On Tuesday, Dr. Janet Barresi, State Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, will address the group and a panel featuring legislators, superintendents of schools, and tribal leaders will be featured. On Wednesday, there will be a second general session, a panel discussion, and additional presentations. Representatives from the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education have been invited to speak. There will be exhibitors, vendors, and fabulous door prizes including a signed OU football.

Join us as we engage in important discussions and presentations that have the potential to influence the future of Indian Education in the state of Oklahoma. Dr. Gregory Vogt (Baylor College of Medicine) who worked with the Blackfeet Native Science Field Center Staff and produced the booklet, Blackfeet Skies: An Educational Guide based on Blackfeet Sky Knowledge, will be presenting on his experience tying astronomy to Blackfeet stories. Other workshop sessions include presentations on successful tribal programs; Wahzhazhe, a ballet based on the history of the Osage Nation; Positioning Native American Students to Succeed in STEM Careers, college and career planning; the use of graphing calculators; innovative

after-school programs; the STEP Grant; Native language techniques and strategies; culturally relevant curriculum resources; and a wide variety of other topics based on the four strands listed above. Representatives from the Oklahoma City Zoo, Museum of Osteology, AG in the Classroom, and Project WILD will present sessions and share resources. The 2013 Indian Education Summit will be held at the National Center for Employee Development (NCED) Conference Center and Hotel at 2801 E. State Highway 9, Norman, Oklahoma 73071. This is a state of the art facility designed to create the perfect meeting environment. In addition to guest rooms with new feather beds and leather recliners, their Wellness Center is fully equipped with a weight and cardio room, basketball and volleyball courts, daily group fitness activities, massage therapy, indoor/outdoor running tracks, and an Olympic-sized saline swimming pool, weather permitting. A sumptuous breakfast is provided for those staying at the hotel (waffles, pancakes, custom-made omelets, sausage, bacon, cereal, yogurt, oatmeal, fruit, etc.). Lunches are provided both Tuesday and Wednesday for conference participants. The NCED Conference Center is close to the University of Oklahoma, the Sam Noble Museum, Sooner Mall, the Warren Theaters, and two casinos. Special room rates are \$77 for a room with either two twin beds or one queen bed and \$127 for a Queen Suite with a queen bed, queen convertible sofa, two bathrooms, refrigerator and microwave oven.

The Indian Education Summit is hosted by the American Indian Institute (Aii) at the University of Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the South Central Comprehensive Center at the University of Oklahoma. For information on registration (\$225 for attendees/\$175 for presenters), and lodging, please go to the American Indian Institute website: www.aii.ou.edu. For information on vendor/exhibitor registration, contact Ann Barnes at annbarnes@ou.edu or 405-325-4127.

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Rule change offers alternative path to Native Language Certification

DESA DAWSON
Director of World Language Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education

In the hope of collaborating with the 39 federally-recognized tribes in Oklahoma to help revitalize the Native American Languages (NAL) in our state, the OSDE recommended a rule change this year to offer an alternative path to certification for teachers of those languages.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) shall issue a certification in Native American Languages that have no state competency examination to qualified applicants who meet all of the criteria set forth in 210:20-0-98(d) and who demonstrate proficiency in the Native American Language sought to be certified as determined by a federally-recognized tribe or tribal entity.

Information for Tribes:

- In order for the OSDE to issue certification to teach a Native American Language to qualified candidates, tribal officials should send the following to OSDE:
- The contact information (including name, address, phone and/or email) of tribal officials or entity responsible for administering language assessments in order to direct possible candidates to the proper authority;
 - a copy of the certificate of proficiency to keep on file at the OSDE that will be issued to applicants by the tribal authority in order to authenticate applicants’ certification materials;
 - the language(s) for which the assessment(s) is/are valid and a description of the type(s) of assessments and level of proficiency needed to receive a certificate from the tribe;
 - the language course levels for which the certificate of proficiency is valid; and
 - the minimum degree designation needed by applicants to receive the certificate of proficiency.

Information for Applicants:

Individuals wishing to teach a Native American Language must first receive a certificate of proficiency from the appropriate tribe or tribal entity as mentioned above and then apply for certification to teach at the OSDE certification office.

The State Board of Education may, upon application, issue a teacher certification in Native American Languages. For purposes of this subchapter, a “Native American Language” means the historical, traditional languages spoken by Native Americans. For purposes of this subchapter, “Native American” shall have the meaning set forth in 25 U.S.C § 2902(1)-(2).

Applicants will be required to:

- File a copy of the certificate of proficiency issued by the tribe or tribal entity with the certification office;
- complete a background check through OSDE;
- submit a portfolio documenting the applicant’s experience in teaching the NAL for which he/she has a certificate of proficiency, and
- submit documentation of any other experience related to education.

Applicants meeting all of the criteria set forth in this subsection shall be granted a provisional Native Language teacher certification for a period of one year. After the expiration of the one year provisional term, the Native Language teacher certification may be renewed in

accordance with the following provisions:

(A) For an applicant who does not hold an Oklahoma traditional or alternative teaching credential, the Native Language certification may be renewed on a year-to-year basis if:

- (i) Renewal is requested by the employing district; and
- (ii) As a condition of the first two renewals of the teaching certificate, applicant provides evidence of completion of 60 clock hours/points of a professional teaching development program each year. For purposes of (ii) of this subparagraph, a professional teaching development program may include:

(I) Programs, seminars, or conferences recognized for professional development credit by an Oklahoma public school district at the time the teacher attends; or

(II) Higher education coursework in teacher education from an accredited college or university.

(B) For an applicant who holds an Oklahoma traditional or alternative teaching certificate, the Native Language teacher certification may be renewed for a five (5) year period.

Other Considerations:

The impact of the rule addresses what type of teaching position can be accepted, what credentials or circumstances must be met in order for the NAL course to count for world language credit rather than elective credit, and under what circumstances a teacher of record may be needed to work in collaboration with the NAL instructor.

A certificate in Native American Languages shall qualify the authorized individual to accept a teaching position or assignment in any school district of the State of Oklahoma that offers or permits courses in Native American Language at the proficiency and/or grade level(s) for which they hold certification, provided that:

(1) A holder of Native American Languages teaching certificate who does not also have a current, valid Oklahoma traditional or alternative teaching credential may not teach any subject other than the Native American language and level(s) for which the individual has been certified; and

(2) In order to teach any Native American Language course offered by a school district for core academic subject as a world language credit rather than elective credit, a holder of a Native American Language teaching certificate who does not hold an Oklahoma traditional or alternative teaching credential must either qualify for an Alternative Placement Teaching Certificate or teach the class in collaboration with a teacher of record who is highly qualified in any content area for the appropriate level of instruction.

The use of adjunct instructors to teach Native American Languages is still a viable option for districts who want to continue utilizing these instructors in established programs. As previously stated, adjunct instructors must be highly qualified for students to receive world language credit for high school graduation.

Any questions about this rule change may be addressed to:

Desa Dawson, Director of World Language Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 316
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-204-5644 or Desa.Dawson@sde.ok.gov

Summit planned to prepare educators, students for advanced placement tests

INDIAN EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
South Central Comprehensive Center at the University of Oklahoma

High school students taking Advanced Placement courses in Oklahoma schools leave high school better prepared for the demands of higher education than those who do not, however American Indian students are highly underrepresented in these courses. To remedy this, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, in collaboration with the University of Oklahoma’s South Central Regional Comprehensive Center and the College Board Southwestern Regional Office, will conduct an Advanced Placement Summit for educators involved in designing and implementing Advanced Placement programs, such as state education agency leaders, district and school administrators, teachers, tribal education departments, and Indian education programs later this fall. The goals of this Summit are to increase the number of American Indian students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses in high schools throughout Oklahoma, increase the number of American Indian students engaged in test preparation initiatives, increase the number of American Indian students who register for and take a college entrance examination, and increase the reading scores of English language learners by the end of the school year.

Additionally, the Summit will serve to promote an increase in the number of American Indian students participating in the PSAT/NMSQT, formerly known as the SAT or Scholastic Aptitude Test. The Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a standardized test administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) in the United States. This test is offered by the College Board. Approximately 3.5 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year. In 2008, 1.59 million high school sophomores and 1.52 million

high school juniors took the PSAT. Some seventh, eighth and ninth graders also take the test. The scores from the PSAT/NMSQT are used (with the permission of the student) to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

American Indian students in Oklahoma are not well represented in Advanced Placement courses in high schools according to the Student Achievement Report for 2011-2012 issued by the College Board. Out of a total of 13,833 AP test takers, only 1,060 (7%) students classified as American Indian participated in the AP course examinations. These examinations determine whether or not a student is given college credit prior to enrollment in an institution of higher education. This percentage of American Indian students pales in comparison to the overall American Indian student enrollment of over 130,000 students in public schools in Oklahoma, 29% of the overall student population.

“Advanced Placement courses help prepare American Indian students for the rigor of higher education without the need for remedial courses,” according to Jacob Tsotigh, South Central Comprehensive Center Indian Education Technical Assistance Coordinator. He states that his own son was able to test out of three college courses by taking the AP exams prior to his enrollment at Oklahoma City University which gave him nine hours of college credit before ever stepping on campus.

The Advanced Placement Summit will promote better preparation of American Indian students for college readiness without the need for remedial courses which sometimes inhibit academic progress during the higher education experience for these students. Further information on the date and time for this Summit will be released in the next few weeks according to Tsotigh.

For more information or updates on the summit, call Jacob Tsotigh at 405-325-8175 or email jtsotigh@ou.edu

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Smoking an issue with casino workers

STEPHEN SINGER
Associated Press

MASHANTUCKET, Conn. (AP) – The smell of cigarette smoke hung heavily over the Great Cedar Hall at Foxwoods Resort Casino one recent weekday morning, as gamblers lit up freely in the cavernous slots machine room. Ventilation that workers say has improved over the years was keeping the smell to a minimum and eliminating what might otherwise have been clouds of smoke hanging over the giant room.

Though a union contract will bring table game dealers increased wages and other benefits, workers will still have to breathe in gamblers’ smoke. Because Indian sovereignty prevails, state law banning indoor smoking in most Connecticut businesses does not apply to Foxwoods, which is owned by the Mashantucket Pequot tribe.

The employees’ union, the United Auto Workers, has been able to negotiate improved air filters and regular maintenance schedules.

“It’s part of the job,” said Kathleen McNamara, a server who has worked at Foxwoods for 10 years.

Some areas at Foxwoods reserved for nonsmokers, and McNamara – a smoker who’s trying to quit – said she can spend some time in smoke-free environments during her six-

hour shift. Still, she said she’s happy with her work.

In the contract overwhelmingly ratified by workers in recent voting, the UAW won an 11.5 percent wage increase over four years and the right for dealers to decide how to distribute tips.

But state Sen. Terry Gerratana, Senate chairwoman of the legislature’s Public Health Committee, said lawmakers are stymied by tribal law, which can dictate things like smoking.

“It’s like us telling Ireland what they can and can’t do,” she said.

Foxwoods did not respond to a request for comment.

Without a law in its toolbox, the state negotiated voluntary agreements several years ago with Foxwoods and neighboring Mohegan Sun that limit smoking areas. Then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell worried in 2009 about the prospect of a legal battle and the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in slots revenue. The Mohegan tribal chairman threatened to withhold the state’s share of slots machine revenue over a possible smoking ban and to sue in federal court.

Full smoking bans are not common at commercial casinos. The prospect of lost revenue has prodded local and state officials to exempt casinos from full smoking bans that are in place nearly everywhere else.

Pennsylvania law allows casinos to permit smoking on 50 percent of gaming floors.

Local law in Atlantic City, N.J., restricts smoking to no more than 25 percent of casinos and Nevada bans smoking in all areas of grocery and convenience stores, including gambling areas. But the state allows smoking in casino gambling areas where children are barred by law from loitering.

Nevada casinos also may designate separate areas such as poker rooms to be smoke-free.

Cynthia Hallett, executive director of Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights, said smoking in casinos is an issue because the number of casinos is increasing in the United States.

“We have a growing workforce exposed to secondhand smoke,” she said, adding that “ventilation can only do so much.”

David Schwartz, director of the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, said revenue has fallen in several states that banned smoking at casinos. As a result, lawmakers are reluctant to impose further restrictions, he said.

A significant, but unspecified, portion of gamblers smoke, leading researchers to see a link between smoking and gambling, Schwartz said.

“You gamble longer if you’re smoking,” he said.

For example, Atlantic City’s Revel Casino-Hotel, which is competing with other casinos in the city known for gambling, is allowing smoking on the casino floor for the first time as one strategy to hold on to customers. A spokeswoman said the casino would not comment.

A Montana ban on smoking in taverns and casinos resulted in a steep revenue drop. In the state’s 2010 budget year immediately after the ban took effect, video gambling machine taxes were \$52.4 million, a 16 percent decline from the previous year.

Rick Ask, administrator of the Gambling Control Division of the Montana Department of Justice, said the weak economy was a factor but most of the revenue drop was the result of the state smoking law.

But casino operators don’t believe they are losing potential customers as a result of smoking limits or bans, Ask said.

“Most would say, ‘Those are not my customers,’” he said.

Clyde Barrow, director of the Center for Policy Analysis at UMass Dartmouth, said studies disprove the industry’s argument that smokers gamble more frequently than nonsmokers. And he contended the recession and weak economic recovery – not smoking – are to blame for falling casino revenue.

Kialegee Town casino appeal on hold

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

DENVER – The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals announced late Thursday, Sept. 5, it will hold off on any action on an appeal concerning the Kialegee Tribal Town’s proposed Broken Arrow, Okla. casino until a higher court considers a potentially related case.

The U.S. Supreme Court has granted certiorari to a lawsuit between the state of Michigan and the Bay Mills Indian Community over sovereign immunity and gaming. The state alleges that the tribe has violated federal law by running a casino on non-Indian land, while the tribe maintains that they are immune from the state attorney general’s lawsuit. A timeline has not been given for when the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments.

Similar to the Bay Mills Indian Community’s argument, Kialegee tribal leaders maintain that they have sovereign immunity from Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt’s lawsuit.

Mekko Tiger Hobia and other Kialegee leaders are asking the court to overturn a decision from the Northern District of Oklahoma that stopped construction on the tribe’s proposed Red Clay Casino on a Muscogee (Creek) allotment in Broken Arrow, Okla. No work has been done on the site since Judge Gregory Frizzell handed down the injunction in May 2012.

With Thursday’s decision, the appeals court also vacated oral arguments that were previously set for Sept. 25 on the case.

Kialegee Tribal Town officials could not be reached for comment by deadline.

Proposal for new casino divides Wisc. tribes

TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – Menominee Nation leaders have been pushing for an off-reservation casino in Kenosha for more than 20 years, hoping it will help pull their people out of poverty. The tribe overcame initial federal opposition, the indictment of its developer and fierce opposition from a rival tribe to score a significant victory this month when the U.S. Department of the Interior finally approved the project.

But the next step may be the toughest. The Menominee need Republican Gov. Scott Walker to sign off, and he has laid down conditions that are already creating rifts among Wisconsin’s 11 tribes.

Walker said his approval hinges on three things – the plan must have community support; there can be no net increase in gambling; and the 10 other tribes must agree. The second and third requirements seem designed to create conflict; in order for the Menominee to get their casino, they or another tribe may have to give up

some existing gambling, making it difficult to achieve consensus.

Richard Monette, a former chairman of the North Dakota-based Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa who is now a law professor specializing in tribal issues at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said Walker is improperly trying to pass the buck.

“It has nothing to do with those other Indian tribes. It has to do with a decision by the state of Wisconsin. He’s the leader of the state of Wisconsin and he should be capable of making the decision,” Monette said.

The Menominee reservation covers all of Menominee County, one of the most economically depressed areas in Wisconsin. Its unemployment rate last month was 16.7 percent, compared to 6.8 percent statewide.

“I’ve lived on the Menominee reservation all my life, and I can tell you that our tribe’s unmet needs are significant and very real,” tribal Chairman Craig Corn said at a state Capitol news conference last week.

The tribe operates two

casinos in Keshena, the county seat. Their revenue is confidential, but the facilities are far smaller than the casinos run by the Ho-Chunk Nation and Forest County Potawatomi, who have the biggest – and presumably most lucrative – gambling operations in the state.

The Menominee hope a casino in Kenosha, about 200 miles southeast of Keshena on the Wisconsin-Illinois border, would draw more customers from Milwaukee and Chicago and their densely populated suburbs, leading to higher profits.

Kenosha County voters approved the idea in an advisory referendum in 2004. The project ran into snags, though. The tribe’s developer was indicted for making illegal campaign contributions to then-President George W. Bush and then-Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle. Then the Bush administration announced the farther a tribal casino was from a reservation, the harder it would be to win federal approval.

President Barack Obama’s administration repealed that policy. The U.S. Department

of the Interior gave the Menominee the go-ahead on Aug. 23.

Walker responded by reiterating his criteria for approval. Still, the governor plans to hold a 60-day comment period on the casino.

The Menominee are trying to make their case to the public, pointing to analyses they commissioned that show the casino would create 3,300 permanent jobs and provide \$35 million in annual payments to the state. They also point to the 2004 referendum as evidence of support.

But that referendum was almost a decade ago, and gambling opponents, most notably a group called Enough Already! WI, have pushed back hard since the federal approval came down.

It’s also unclear what Walker means by no net gambling increase. His spokesman said the governor’s position is in line with a separate referendum voters approved in 1993 to limit gambling.

Corn said in an interview that he believed the referendum involved only

state gambling expansion. But others think it could require the Menominee to give up gambling in Keshena or another tribe to sacrifice some of its machines.

The other huge hurdle is tribal consensus. Walker told the Kenosha News he added that requirement to avoid feuding between tribal governments, but the call for no net gambling increase seems to be sparking tensions.

Two Wisconsin bands looking to build their own off-reservation casinos – the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians – have sided with the Menominee.

“Everybody has the right to do gaming,” Lac Du Flambeau President Tom Maulson said. “We shouldn’t fight over our customers there. We’re doing it for our people back home.”

The Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk Nation, however, remain steadfastly opposed to the plan. The Potawatomi, who fear a Kenosha casino would suck profits from their operation 40 miles north in Milwaukee, say

the state can’t support more gambling. Walker served as Milwaukee County executive before he became governor.

“We hope that Governor Walker will see that this project is not in the best interest of Wisconsin and puts an end to the chaos created by the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs),” Potawatomi Attorney General Jeff Crawford said in a statement.

The Menominee have offered the Potawatomi shares in the casino’s development or management, but Crawford has called the offer a publicity stunt.

The Ho-Chunk Nation, meanwhile, maintains the Kenosha area is part of its traditional homeland and the tribe would consider a Menominee casino there an incursion. Ho-Chunk President Jon Greendeer said he’s told the Menominee as much.

“It’s a very awkward and uncomfortable discussion to have with people you consider your friends and allies in so many other interests,” Greendeer said. “My biggest hope is none of these long-built alliances deteriorate because of this.”



Workers load gaming machines and chairs from the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians’ closed Tahlequah casino.

Keetoowahs close casino

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – A tribal casino in eastern Oklahoma has closed.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians was hoping to negotiate with the Cherokee Nation to keep its Tahlequah casino open.

However, time ran out for the Keetoowahs, and the casino closed down, leaving about 150 employees without jobs.

The Tulsa World reports that there was a Friday deadline to have the land in trust

or close the casino. That was part of a settlement with the state following a court ruling that the casino had been operating illegally for more than 25 years on land that was never in trust.

The U.S. Department of the Interior had agreed to put the land in trust for the Keetoowahs, but a federal judge’s ruling halted that action after the Cherokee Nation sued.

RADIO

Continued from Page 1

called redskins,” the Oneida leader says in the ad. “We deserve to be treated as what we are – Americans.”

The radio ad said Goodell had rightly been critical this summer after an Eagles wide receiver was caught on video making a racial slur against African-Americans.

The ads launch as the Washington Redskins this year face a fresh barrage of criticism over their nickname, with local leaders and pundits calling for a name change. In May, 10 members of Congress sent letters to Redskins owner Dan Snyder and Goodell urging the team to change the name.

Snyder has vowed to never

change the name.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy, in an email to The Associated Press, said they “respect that reasonable people may have differing views.”

“The name from its origin has always intended to be positive and has always been used by the team in a highly respectful manner,” McCarthy wrote.

There was no immediate response from the Redskins.

The Oneidas have been vocal opponents of the Redskins nickname – be it for NFL or high school teams. The tribe, which runs a casino and resort in central New York, this year gave \$10,000 toward new jerseys to an area high school that changed its nickname from the Redskins to the Hawkeyes.

The Oneida said the first

ad will run Sunday and Monday on several stations in Washington. Subsequent ads will run in Washington during home games and in the cities hosting the team when it is away. A spokesman for the Oneidas would not say how much the campaign would cost beyond “multiple thousands.”

Halbritter said that fans also are being urged to lobby the NFL in support of the name change at www.changethemascot.org, a website that debuted Thursday.

“We believe that with the help of our fellow professional football fans, we can get the NFL to realize the error of its ways and make a very simple change,” Halbritter said in a prepared statement.

COBELL

Continued from Page 1

and I kind of called people and chewed them out because of it,” said Lange. “I’m a very vocal person so I think I owe an apology to those I talked to.”

Lange’s confusion is not uncommon. Many tribal members across Indian country have questions that they would like to have answered in a layperson’s language.

Cobell v. Salazar, was a class action lawsuit about individual Indian land, funds and other assets held in trust by the federal government. Courts have decided that the federal government had violated its trust duties, including a duty to account for Individual Indian Money trust funds. This is where the term IIM accounts come in.

President Barack Obama signed legislation authorizing government funding of a final version of the \$3.4 billion settlement in December 2010, opening the door for resolution after fourteen years of litigation

What the settlement will provide is a \$1.412 billion Accounting/Trust Administration Fund, plus a \$100 million Trust Administration Adjustment Fund, plus any earned interest, to pay for Historical Accounting and Trust Administration Claims.

This money will also pay for the cost of administering and implementing the Settlement, as well as other expenses

\$1.9 billion of the settlement is used to create a Trust Land Consolidation Fund to purchase “fractionated” individual Indian trust lands. The program will allow individual Indians to get money for land interests divided among numerous owners. Land sales are voluntary. If you sell your land it will be returned to tribal control.

Up to \$60 million is allocated for an Indian Education Scholarship Fund to help Native Americans attend college or vocational school. This money will come out of the \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund and will be based upon the participation of landowners in selling these fractionated land interests. A non-profit organization chosen by the parties will administer the Indian Education Scholarship Fund.

Any remaining funds in the Accounting/Trust Administration Fund, after all distributions and costs relating to the Settlement are paid, will be transferred to the Indian Education Scholarship Fund. Any payments for Class Members that remains unclaimed for five years after Settlement is approved will be transferred to the Indian Education Scholarship Fund.

The proposed Settlement affects individual Indians across the country, including members of most Federally recognized tribes west of the Mississippi River. The Settlement includes two groups or “Classes.”

An individual may be a member of one or both Classes. Most people included in the Settlements are members of both Classes.

The Historical Accounting Class involves anyone alive on September 30, 2009 who had an open IIM account any time between October 25, 1994 and September 30, 2009. These accounts have had at least one cash transaction that has not been reversed for any reason.

The Trust Administration Class is made up of those individuals alive on September 30, 2009 who had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in the Federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009. These members need to demonstrate ownership interest in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.

Much of the confusion comes from the titles of the settlement monies being distributed. The “Cobell Checks” as they are commonly referred to, come from the money that was allocated to the individual IIM account holders. What is referred to as the Salazar Money is the fund that was distributed to the tribes.

Reform of the Indian trust management and accounting system should continue in the future. The Settlement Agreement allows some funds in the Trust Land Consolidation Fund to be used to pay costs related to the work of a commission on Indian trust administration and reform. In the future, Class Members will still be able to bring claims against the federal government for trust reform.

The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has failed, time after time, to understand the simple fact the many impoverished Indians living on large and isolated reservations do not have the money to buy a computer nor do they have the accessibility to the Internet. By not recognizing this fact the BIA and Interior were woefully inadequate in providing information to the IIM account holders or to the tribes about the Salazar monies. This lack of communications from the powers-that-be and the people has added greatly to the confusion.

This and more information is readily available at the website established to keep members of the lawsuit informed. The website can be found at www.indiantrust.com. You can also call toll free 1-800-961-6109. If you do not have access to the Internet please ask your elected representative or your local office of the BIA to please provide that information to the Native American newspapers that continue to serve Indian country.

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CROWNED

Continued from Page 1

recent graduate of the Metropolitan State University of Denver where she received a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree.

Ortegon competed against nine other contestants from across the United States.

“It’s really to empower Native American women and youth and promote growth within yourself,” Ortegon said. “I’m looking forward to representing the title in the best way that I can and traveling and helping others.”

This was the first time Ortegon competed in a pageant, and she said she is eager to prepare for speeches and performances she can give while visiting American Indian communities.

“I want to try to be a positive influence,” she tells The Riverton Ranger.

The pageant was like any other with an added focus on American Indian tradition and emphasis on education status and ambitions. Participants had to be between the ages of 18 and 27 and were judged in four categories: traditional wear, evening wear, an interview and a talent.

In the interviews, the contestants were asked one surprise question. Ortegon was asked what advice she would give to women wanting to compete.

“I tell them to follow their hearts and nothing is impossible,” Ortegon said. “Have faith in yourself and just to keep going.”

Ortegon said she enjoys beading and sewing and made some of her own clothing and a beaded belt for use in the pageant. She was awarded donated gifts and a Pendleton blanket.

“I am truly happy and confident she will touch and inspire many, and I look forward to working with her,” said Tashina Atine, director and owner of the organization.

Although Ortegon never lived on the Wind River Indian Reservation, her frequent summer trips there to visit her relatives George and Shirley Enos -- related to her mother Sharon “Joy” Enos -- began when she was 3 years old.

She said she enjoyed attending powwows

on the reservation and learned about jingle dress dancing, a tradition she practices and continues to enjoy now as an adult. She also performed a jingle dress dance in the pageant.

At home is her father, Angel Ortegon, and six brothers and six sisters who she said have always showered her with support.

Ortegon also presented her art during the pageant. She said she will be showcasing more of her work in an art show in November at the Center for Visual Arts in downtown Denver along with other American Indian artists.

She also enjoys running, traveling and participating in outdoors activities like hiking, camping and fishing. She has taken an interest in ethnic studies and said she would like to further her education in that field.

While at MSU, Ortegon was able to study abroad and travel to Rome and Florence in Italy.

The pageant is intended to encourage American Indian women to achieve their personal goals, build character, improve their self-esteem and leadership skills, Atine said. Organizers also hope to help promote and recognizing issues like domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, and suicide and youth violence in American Indian communities.

Atine said more than 120 women have requested applications for the pageant, but only 16 have successfully completed the registration process. Last year, Shaylin Shabi, a resident of Kayenta, Ariz., and member of the Navajo Tribe, was crowned in the pageant.

“I was extremely happy to see that our contestants this year were extremely dedicated to their platform,” Atine said. “It was heartwarming and inspiring to see each of them interested in making a difference.”

Atine said the organization hopes to expand its presence, grow with donations and sponsors and offer a scholarship as a prize.

CLASSIFIEDS ▼

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The EPICS board of directors are seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS) is a non-profit community parent resource center serving Native American families who have children with disabilities or special healthcare needs from birth to 26 years old. Education: Master degree in Human Services or Special Education field preferred.

Experience: Minimum of three years’ experience in program administration with grant writing skills preferred. Strong oral and written communication and computer skills.

Additional: Commitment and sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity and persons with disabilities and their families. Parent or family member of a child with a disability or a person with extensive training and experience working with parents of children with disabilities a plus. Knowledge of current special education law and of statewide resources needed. Main office located in Albuquerque, NM.

Submit a resume, a letter of interest and 3 references electronically (preferred) to: robin.wells@enmu.edu with ED position in subject No later than Friday – October 11, 2013 5pm (MST) www.epicsnm.org



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Delaware Tribe of Indians current opportunity:

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This position will be located in Caney, KS
Please email resumes to mtaylor@delawaretribe.org or fax to 918-337-6591 or mail to 170 NE Barbara Street, Bartlesville OK 74006, Applications and complete Job Description can be found on www.delawaretribe.org/careers. No phone calls please, Position closes on September 13, 2013.

Delaware Tribal/Native American preference will be observed.

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Position for online adjunct instructors needed in the following disciplines: Christian Ministry, Nursing, and Medical Imaging. Minimum qualifications include a Master’s degree with online higher education teaching experience. Salary competitive. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee OK 74403. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to Indian students and employees. EOE

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EVENTS

▼ ▼ ▼

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

SEPTEMBER 12-14
Oklahoma Indian Summer, Bartlesville Community Center, 300 SE Adams Blvd Bartlesville. Phone: 918-331-0934

SEPTEMBER 13-15
Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow at the Tribal Grounds, 129 W Oneida, Wyandotte. Events held all day. Contact Kenna Simmons, 918-666-2435.

SEPTEMBER 13-15
Wyandotte Nation Powwow, 5.2 miles east of Wyandotte. Contest powwow, free admission to the public. Info call 918-678-2297, ext. 244 or email sclemons@wyandottenation.org

SEPTEMBER 14-15
Dance for Life Contest PowWow at Red Buffalo Hall, Carnegie. Info call 405-247-5200 or email gmb Beaver@att.net

SEPTEMBER 20
Kanza Health Fair from 9 a.m. till noon at the Johnny Ray McCauley Building on River Road Newkirk, OK. Lunch will be served. The popular one mile walk will be from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. The first 100 walkers will receive a “hoodie.” There will be over 40 vendors which includes the Lions Club Mobile Van, OBI blood Mobile Van, and a Dental Van. There will be many door prizes including a grand prize.

SEPTEMBER 21
Mannford Cowboy Trade Day just off Highway 51 only 25 minutes West of Tulsa – watch for signs. Lots of great vendors, lots of great food, pony and wagon rides, chuckwagon by Frontier Ministries, cowboy shootout, cowboy poetry and music! New vendors welcome! For vendor information call Billy

Treadwell at Wicked Pony Trading Co in Mannford (918) 865-3991 or email to billy_treadwell@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 21
Robber’s Cave State Park Performing Arts Festival, 10am - 6pm. Non-stop performances, food and craft vendors and more. Call Nathan Johnson for more information at 580-320-3102.

SEPTEMBER 26
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. The public is invited to the opening reception at 1:06 p.m. at Lawton’s McMahon Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris Avenue. The exhibit will be on display through August 31, 2014. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

SEPTEMBER 27-28
Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

SEPTEMBER 28
The Chickasaw Annual Meeting Various Locations, Tishomingo. Phone: 580-371-2040 Toll Free: 800-593-3356

SEPTEMBER 28
Ride for the Vets Poker Run benefit for veterans served by the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee. For more information, please contact Voluntary Service at 918-577-3621, 3358 or 3622.

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- Inside this issue:**
- **Wounded Knee sale deadline approaches**
 - **Foundation takes on diabetes, obesity**
 - **Builder gets prison in home scam case**



NATIVE TIMES

Gaming websites spark call for federal investigation

■ One claimant Cheyenne and Arapaho government will consider a bill to request the investigation against the other claimant government .

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Two gaming websites are prompting one of the two claimant Cheyenne and Arapaho governments to consider bringing criminal charges against the other.

The tribal council affiliated with Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell's former lieutenant governor and the current leader of an opposition government, will consider a resolution at its Oct. 5 meeting to request a federal investigation into Prairie Chief-Boswell and Brian Foster, the chief operating officer of the tribes' Lucky Star casinos in western Oklahoma, for potential



PokerTribes.com, a venture between the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Universal Entertainment Group, launched in 2012.

embezzlement due to their involvement in the tribes' attempt to start an online poker site with actual cash betting.

PokerTribes.com, a joint venture between the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Universal Entertainment Group, was

launched in June 2012. Originally billed as a free social networking site, PokerTribes and its corresponding mobile applications included explicit references to financial transactions, including a "Buy credits" button on its home page and content about refunds for inactive accounts in its terms of service page. Due to federal law prohibiting American financial institutions from handling cash transactions involving U.S. citizens and online gambling, the site's financial transfers and distributions would have involved foreign bank accounts.

Despite an estimated international launch date of summer 2013, as of Friday morning, the site has the same "coming soon" sign that was first posted in April, thanks to objections from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the terms of a settlement signed between Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell and the state of Oklahoma that would have allowed the site to operate internationally in the more than 70 countries that allow Internet gambling.

See **C&A SITES** on Page 7

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CASES



Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown and his wife enter the tribe's District Court for a hearing earlier in the year. Brown is the father of Baby Veronica.

LISA SNELL | NATIVE TIMES

OK high court to hear Veronica case

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – The ongoing custody fight for a Cherokee child will officially go before its third Supreme Court.

According to a Friday afternoon filing on the Oklahoma Supreme Court Network's website, at least one appeal in the Baby Veronica case was assigned to the Oklahoma Supreme Court Thursday afternoon.

Due to a gag order and a seal on all records, it is unclear which appeal will go before the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown has filed appeals contesting separate decisions from two Oklahoma district courts that would force him to hand over his daughter Veronica to Matt and Melanie Capobianco, a James Island, S.C., couple who have been attempting to adopt the child since her birth in September 2009. Veronica turns four on Sunday.

Earlier this month, representatives for Dusten Brown, the Cherokee Nation, the Capobiancos and Veronica Brown presented their cases to an Oklahoma Supreme Court referee

See **VERONICA** on Page 2

Baby Desaray case much like Veronica's

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – In a case that is drawing comparisons to a long-running adoption dispute over a 3-year-old Cherokee girl, an Oklahoma County District Court judge awarded custody this week of a 4-month-old infant to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe following a South Carolina couple's attempt to adopt her.

In both cases, a South Carolina couple has attempted to adopt a tribal member born in Oklahoma and placed up for adoption by the mother. In both cases, the father objected. A federal law called the Indian Child Welfare Act mandates strict procedures for guardianship and custody of Native American children.

In the most recent case, the infant known as Desaray was

born in May in Oklahoma. A couple in South Carolina who sought to adopt her returned with her to their home. But the infant's biological father, who is not Native American, is seeking custody. Because Desaray's biological mother is a tribal member, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe has stepped in, and the tribe was awarded custody this week.

The Indian Child Welfare Act mandates that Native American children enrolled in a tribe must first be placed with an extended family member, another tribal member who is not a family member or another Native American from a different tribe.

This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Dusten Brown, a Cherokee Nation member, who is seeking custody of his biological daughter, 3-year-old Veronica, could not use

See **DESARAY** on Page 2

4 players in Kialegee casino bid suing lawyer

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CHICAGO – Four of the players in the Kialegee Tribal Town's attempt to build a casino are taking their attorneys to federal court.

Claiming professional negligence, MCZ Development Coporation, Sheffield Development Partners, LLC, Golden Canyon Partners, LLC, and Florence Development Partners, LLC, filed a civil complaint in the Northern District of Illinois Sept. 6 against Dennis Whittlesey and his employer, Dickinson Wright, a multi-state law firm.

Whittlesey represented the four companies during the development of the Kialegee Tribal Town's proposed Red Clay Casino in Broken Arrow, Okla.

According to the filing, Whittlesey and his firm specifically advised the four companies in 2011 that any negative rulings from the applicable state or federal agencies involved in Oklahoma tribal gaming would not stop the tribal town from opening its casino on a Muscogee (Creek) allotment. The companies were also reassured that an even a legal challenge would not result

See **KIALEGEE** on Page 7

Wind farms kill 67 eagles in 5 years

WASHINGTON (AP) – Wind energy facilities have killed at least 67 golden and bald eagles in the past five years, but the figure could be much higher, according to a new scientific study by government biologists.

The research represents one of the first tallies of eagle deaths attributed to the nation's growing wind energy industry, which has been a pillar of President Barack Obama's plans to reduce the pollution blamed for global warming. Wind power releases no air pollution.

But at a minimum, the scientists wrote, wind farms in 10 states have killed at least 85 eagles since 1997, with most deaths occurring between 2008 and 2012, as the industry was greatly expanding. Most deaths – 79 – were golden eagles that struck wind turbines. A power line electrocuted one of the eagles counted in the study.

The president of the American Bird Conservancy, Mike Parr, said the tally was "an alarming and concerning finding."

A trade group, the American Wind Energy Association, said in a statement that the figure was much lower than other causes of eagle deaths. The group said it was working with the government and conservation groups to find ways to reduce eagle casualties.

Still, the scientists said their figure is likely to be "substantially" underestimated, since companies report eagle deaths voluntarily and only a fraction of those included in their total were discovered during searches

See **WIND FARM** on Page 4

Delaware look to expand services, not just game

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. – Contrary to published reports, the Delaware Tribe is not moving north just to open a casino. Currently considered landless, the Bartlesville-based tribe is looking at relocating to its previous reservation in eastern Kansas in an effort to expand its services for citizens and business opportunities that do not necessarily involve poker chips and slot machines.

“We’ve talked about this for 20 years,” Chief Paula Pechonick said. “We want to get our 638 (federal self-governance) funds directly and be able to get out from underneath the Cherokee Nation.”

Under a 2009 memorandum of understanding with the Cherokee Nation, the Delawares cannot exert any governmental authority over land within the Cherokee’s jurisdictional area or take any land into trust in exchange for the Cherokee Nation not opposing the tribe regaining federal recognition.

The agreement, which was required thanks to an 1866 treaty that moved the tribe onto the Cherokee’s land in Oklahoma, does not extend to Delaware property outside the Cherokee’s jurisdiction. If the move happens, the Delaware Tribe’s proposed new service area could potentially include more than 15 counties in eastern and southeastern Kansas where its citizens lived before its forced relocation to northeastern Oklahoma.

The Delaware Tribe’s current capitol and its Chelsea office are within the Cherokee Nation. The tribe also has offices in Emporia, Kan., and Caney, Kan., and has been soliciting feedback from tribal citizens for potential service expansion in Kansas. The planned relocation would not disrupt services for the tribe’s citizens in Oklahoma.



Paula Pechonick

“We’re going to leave everything at this building right here,” Pechonick said. “The complex is going to remain. The services will remain for our citizens still here.”

“There are almost 50,000 underserved Natives in those counties. We’re like to be able to help those Native Americans as well, along with our own people.”

The casino rumor was partially sparked by a real estate transaction tied to the Kansas move. Earlier this year, the tribe bought an 87-acre tract on the north side of Lawrence, Kan., through its business subsidiary, LTI Enterprises, and is in the process of attempting to take it into trust. Despite published reports in Lawrence area media outlets, the tribe’s trust plans for the property do not involve gaming.

“Something we’ve envisioned to show people was to take an aerial photo of what we have here at this campus and transpose it up there,” Pechonick said. “We want to be able to tell them we can have housing, child care, government offices and everything else we have down here.”

Pechonick and other tribal officials are in the process of meeting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the four federally-recognized tribes headquartered in Kansas and the state’s governor, Sam Brownback. The tribe also plans to present a resolution at the National Congress of American Indians’ annual convention in Tulsa later this year asking for support for the move. Since the proposed relocation has to be approved by the BIA and would potentially involve switching which regional office the tribe falls under, there is not a timeline in place.

“There is a certain historical precedent being set that at issue, it isn’t just about getting federal funds, although that is a factor,” said Jim Gray, former chief of the Osage Nation and Pechonick’s senior adviser on government relations. “A tribe’s primary responsibility is to take care of its people. The purpose of a tribal government is to take care...of its people, to provide services to help ensure the safety, security and culture of its people. If you want to be sovereign, you have to start acting sovereign. If you sit on the sidelines and don’t exercise it for too long, you lose it. This is the Delawares exercising their sovereignty.”



A general view of Wounded Knee, S.D., on March 27, 1973, during negotiations between members of the American Indian Movement and federal agents.

AP PHOTO

Wounded Knee auction date nears

BRANDON ECOFFEY
Native Sun News

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The public bidding period for the two 40-acre tracts at Porcupine Butte and at Wounded Knee owned by Jim Czywczynski is running until Oct. 15. If a bid isn’t submitted that satisfies the asking price, a public auction will be held.

Czywczynski said, “This historic site was offered first to the Oglala Sioux Tribe, but it is apparent that internal politics have negated that sale to date.”

The land that has been at the center of controversy on the reservation had multiple inquiries but no deal was ever finalized. The attention brought forth by the media coverage of the sale caught the attention of movie star Johnny Depp, who said he was interested in purchasing the land. However, Depp never stepped forward to consult with tribal officials or Czywczynski.

Earlier this year, Oglala Sioux Tribal President Bryan Brewer and descendants

of the Wounded Knee massacre met with Czywczynski in the Native Sun News offices in Rapid City where the president said he did have investors who were waiting for the tribe to give them the go ahead to purchase the land for the asking price of \$4.9 million. Brewer added a stipulation that he would only do so if Czywczynski donated half of his profit to the tribe for a cultural center at the site. Czywczynski did not accept the offer and moved forward with the sale.

“The original May 1 first deadline was for the tribe itself to purchase the land. It has always been my intention for them to own it. The second deadline of September 1 was for a group associated with the tribe to step forth on their behalf, and now I see that the tribe has not taken the steps necessary to purchase the land, and I am now offering it up to the global market,” Czywczynski said. “If the tribe wants to come forward and get it they still can but they are now competing with other interested parties and if a deal isn’t finalized it will be put

up in a live auction.” Brewer said the tribe and the descendants had given their offer to Czywczynski. “It was an opportunity for him to sell the land and walk away with a lot of money and a way for us to get the museum and cultural center built. The tribe doesn’t have the money to build something like that. It was a situation where everyone could have walked away with something.”

In an interview, he said it would be difficult to develop the land because it is surrounded by tribal land. But Czywczynski said the land is accessible from the highway. The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council passed an ordinance banning the development of any land within a certain distance from the Wounded Knee gravesite, essentially siphoning the community from economic development. However, the land Czywczynski is selling is not owned by the tribe or held in trust by the federal government on its behalf. Copyright permission by Native Sun News

DESARAY

Continued from Page 1

the law to press his claims for custody. Veronica’s biological mother is not Native American. Courts in both South Carolina and Oklahoma have ordered Brown to hand over the girl to the South Carolina couple, Matt and Melanie Capobianco, but Brown has refused.

A lawyer representing the Absentee Shawnee Tribe in the Desaray case said he fears the tribe could have trouble in its effort to return Desaray to Oklahoma from South Carolina.

Charles Tripp said he believes the South Carolina-based adoption lawyer, Ray Godwin, who helped set up adoption cases involving both Veronica and Desaray, and other adoption lawyers should be investigated by the Department of Justice.

“Part of the reason for an investigation is the fact that I think we’ve got women, primarily, who are in bad situations financially, maybe emotionally, maybe societal issues – whether that’s drug and alcohol issues or criminal issues – who are being selected, preyed upon, by these agencies,” he said. “I think they prey upon people in dire straits.”

In a statement, Godwin said the Absentee Shawnee Tribe was aware of the plan for adoption prior to the birth and said the tribe did not voice any objections. Godwin said the



Raymond Godwin

couple seeking to adopt the infant came to Oklahoma to witness the birth in May and left in June because the adoptive father needed to return to work. The couple, Godwin acknowledged, did leave Oklahoma without obtaining an interstate compact agreement, which governs the placement of children from one state to another.

“But they only did so under dire circumstances,” Godwin said in the statement. “Any statements by the birth father or the Absentee Shawnee Indian Tribe that the child was whisked out of Oklahoma a couple of days after birth are patently false.”

Godwin said the couple then went to family court in South Carolina and a temporary custody order was put in place. It’s unclear if the adoptive couple plan to appeal the Oklahoma order, though Godwin did write that the couple are trying to obtain an interstate compact agreement.

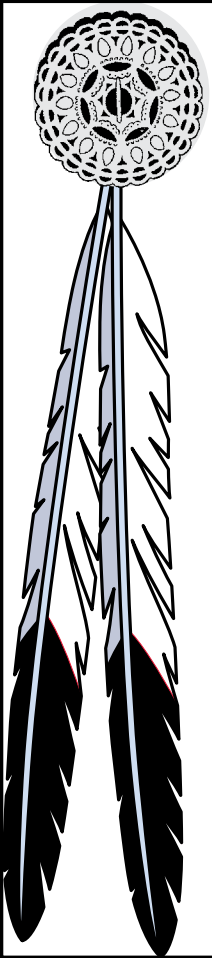
VERONICA

Continued from Page 1

after a Nowata County District Court judge upheld an adoption decree issued in South Carolina and ordered the child be handed over to the Capobiancos. Due to the seal on all court-related records, it is unclear whether the referee recommended the case for consideration by Oklahoma Supreme Court or the court is acting of its own accord.

Dusten Brown filed his second appeal Sept. 6 after a Muskogee County District Court judge ordered that his daughter be turned over in a separate proceeding that originated in Cherokee County, Okla., but was relocated after the presiding judge recused herself for undisclosed reasons. Brown’s attorneys have asked that the two appeals be considered together.

No timeline has been provided on when the Oklahoma Supreme Court will hear arguments. When reached for comment Friday afternoon, Cherokee Nation representatives declined to comment, citing the gag order. Thanks to a previously issued stay, Veronica will remain with her biological family while the appeals process plays out. However, the court has not made the stay permanent, leaving the possibility that it could be lifted before all appeals are exhausted. Veronica has lived with her biological family for almost two years. Under the direction of the South Carolina Supreme Court, family court judge awarded custody to the Capobiancos in July after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Indian Child Welfare Act did not apply in this specific case.



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Otoe-Missouria lending company faces legal challenge

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

NEW YORK – On Wednesday, the Southern federal District Court of New York considered whether to allow a preliminary injunction that would keep two tribes' payday lending companies in business in the Empire State.

Along with the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe is facing a legal challenge from the state of New York's Department of Financial Services as part of its campaign to stop online payday lending companies from doing business in the state.

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, headquartered in Red Rock, Okla., operates two online payday lending firms while the Michigan-based Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has one. Both tribes have financial regulatory agencies that oversee the lending companies' activities.

Benjamin Lawsky, the state superintendent of

Financial Services, said the companies violate New York's predatory lending laws and that insulating reservation-based businesses only inhibits the state's ability to enforce its own laws.

"State laws like New York's usury statutes may validly be applied to economic transactions between Native Americans and New York consumers when those transactions have significant and injurious off-reservation effects – as is the case here, given the crippling debt that payday loans cause to New Yorkers," Lawsky's attorneys wrote.

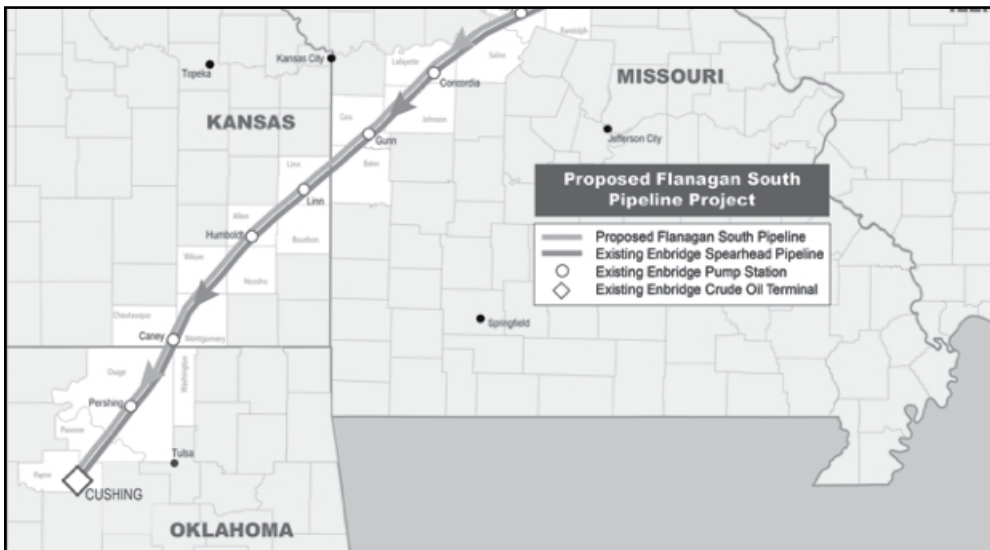
To keep doing business in New York while the lawsuit plays out, the tribes filed a motion for a preliminary injunction.

"Although defendants have absolutely no power to constrain the sovereign rights of the tribal entities, they have interfered with that sovereignty by asserting that the tribes are improper bodies to regulate the tribal corporate plaintiffs' business practices and by demanding that banks prevent the tribes' ability to transfer funds through the

interstate banking network," attorney David Bernick wrote on behalf of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. "Several banks and financial services companies have already informed the tribal corporate plaintiffs that they will terminate their accounts and more likely will blindly follow suit if the defendants are not enjoined."

According to court filings, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe receives about half of its non-federal operating funds from its online lending companies, American Web Loan and Great Plains Lending.

A ruling on the injunction request has not been handed down. When reached via email Thursday, Otoe-Missouria Chairman John Shotton was optimistic about his tribe's case. "We are waiting for the judge to rule and are confident that he will uphold Indian law and sovereign rights," he said. "Our tribe's lending activities follow federal law and operate in a highly regulated environment with a specific focus on protecting consumers."



ENBRIDGE ENERGY

A map of the project overview of the proposed Flanagan South pipeline project.

Public hearings set in Okla. on pipeline project

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – Public hearings are scheduled next week in Drumright and Pawhuska to discuss the final leg of Enbridge Energy Company's pipeline that will run from terminals near Chicago to the oil hub of Cushing in northeastern Oklahoma.

The Flanagan South pipeline will be a 36-inch, 600-mile pipeline that will run Canadian oil sands and northern U.S. Crude. It will run mostly adjacent to the company's existing 22- to 24-inch Spearhead Pipeline. Together the pipelines will have a capacity to transport 775,000 barrels a day of sweet crude from the Bakken formation in Montana and North Dakota and the oil sands of western Canada once complete in mid-2014.

Construction is scheduled to start next month with a total of anywhere from 400 to 700 workers being hired and 40 to 50 percent of those being hired from the local workforce, Enbridge spokeswoman Katie Lange said.

So far, Lange said about 70 to 80 workers will come from the Osage Nation but more

will be hired later as work continues.

"There was a very aggressive and robust training program that the Osage Nation did with the four unions," Lange said, noting that 480 people received training that put them in a position to apply for jobs.

Lange said that the company acquired additional easement for the pipeline which will pass through Illinois, Missouri and Kansas before entering Osage County in Oklahoma. Construction is underway in the other states.

Lange said the company has completed federal, state, county and local permitting for roads and water-body crossings, including the Arkansas River. A pumping station is proposed in Pershing near an existing pump station on the adjacent Spearhead Pipeline.

According to the Calgary, Alberta-based company's website, Enbridge operates the longest crude oil and liquids transportation system in the world and is Canada's largest natural gas distribution company.

SD court dismisses 2nd appeal in 1975 AIM murder

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) – The South Dakota Supreme Court has dismissed a Canadian man's secondary appeal of his murder conviction and life sentence in the 1975 slaying of a fellow American Indian Movement activist.

In a direct appeal last year, the Supreme Court upheld John Graham's conviction for taking part in the killing of Annie Mae Aquash in South Dakota.

Graham then filed a secondary appeal that was denied by a circuit judge. Acting as his own lawyer, Graham asked the Supreme Court to consider the second appeal, but the court dismissed it for procedural reasons, saying he failed to serve his appeal motion on state officials.

Graham was convicted of murder in December 2010 after prosecutors said he and two other AIM activists, Arlo Looking Cloud and Theda Clarke, killed Aquash because they suspected she was a government informant.

Graham, a citizen of the Southern Tutchone tribe in Canada, could not be contacted in prison for comment.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said the Supreme Court ruling ended Graham's challenges to his conviction in state courts.

"I am grateful for the cooperative efforts of tribal, state and federal law enforcement officials in bringing John Graham to justice," he said. "Today's ruling is an important step toward final justice for Annie Mae and her family."

Aquash's body was found in a remote area in southwest South Dakota in 1976. She was a citizen of the Mi'kmaq tribe of Nova Scotia. Federal agents investigated the case for years but didn't bring an indictment until 2003, when Denver police arrested Looking Cloud.

Looking Cloud was convicted in federal court of first-degree murder in 2004 and sentenced to life in prison, but a federal judge later signed an order reducing Looking Cloud's sentence to 20 years.

Clark, who was never charged, died in 2011.

In his first appeal, Graham argued that the government should not have been allowed to move his case from federal to state court after his extradition to the U.S.

However, the South Dakota Supreme Court ruled last year that the state had jurisdiction to prosecute Graham, prosecutors presented sufficient evidence to convict him and his life sentence was appropriate.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Cows graze in a field spotted with wind turbines. A federal study states that more than 60 eagles have been killed by wind energy facilities in the past five years.

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WIND FARM

Continued from Page 1

for dead birds by wind-energy companies. The study also excluded the deadliest place in the country for eagles, a cluster of wind farms in a northern California area known as Altamont Pass. Wind farms built there decades ago kill more than 60 per year.

The research affirms an AP investigation in May, which revealed dozens of eagle deaths from wind energy facilities and described how the Obama administration was failing to fine or prosecute wind energy companies, even though each death is a violation of federal law.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has said it is investigating 18 bird-death cases involving wind-power facilities, and seven have been referred to the Justice Department.

Wind farms are clusters of turbines as tall as 30-story buildings, with spinning rotors as wide as a passenger jet's wingspan. Though the blades appear to move slowly, they can reach speeds up to 170 mph at the tips, creating tornado-like vortexes.

Wind farms in two states, California and Wyoming, were responsible for 58 deaths, followed by facilities in Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, Utah, Texas, Maryland and Iowa.

In all, 32 facilities were implicated. One in Wyoming was responsible for a dozen

golden eagle deaths, the most at a single facility.

The Cherokee Nation's Tribal Council on May 13 authorized a limited waiver of sovereign immunity so Cherokee Nation Businesses can move forward on wind energy and wind resources leases for Chilocco Wind Farm LLC.

The wind farm project calls for placing turbines on 3,000 acres of CN-owned land near the former Chilocco Indian Agricultural School in Kay County that would be partially managed by CNB.

The Osage Nation, also in north central Oklahoma, is trying to keep a St. Louis-based wind company from building 94 wind turbines in Osage County.

Native pageant queens named

KARIN EAGLE
Native Sun News

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Indian Country says goodbye to the powwow season, except for the October Black Hills Powwow. The United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck hosts the season ender with the powwow every year. But the Black Hills Powwow snuck in under the wire a few years ago.

Part of the celebration includes the selection of the Miss Indian Nations. The National Miss Indian Nations Pageant is an ambassador and leadership program created to promote goodwill and representation of all Native tribes and nations while exuding the beauty of the American Indian culture and heritage.

Miss Indian Nations is required to travel and make appearances throughout her reign at events. She presents herself in a graceful and respectable manner and works alongside people from all walks of life.

The newly crowned Miss Indian Nations XXI is Alexandria Alvarez, a citizen of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe from Fort Hall Idaho. Alvarez is 25 and holds two degrees from Haskell Indian Nations University, an associate's degree in liberal arts and a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies. Alexandria is attending Idaho State University part-time, taking courses in leadership and public speaking.

The outgoing Miss Indian Nations is a Paiute - Shoshone from Fallon, Nev. Shannon Hooper represented the program for the 2012 -13 year. She stated her gratitude for the support she received during her reign.

"As Miss Indian Nations XX 2012-2013, I would like to say thank you to all my supporters throughout the U.S.," she wrote. "It has been an honor and a privilege to represent all Native American Nations. I dedicate this year to my family."

In other pageant news, a newly crowned Miss Navajo Nation was also announced. From Hunters Point, Ariz., Natasha Hardy was selected out of a field of eight contestants to receive the high honors.

As Miss Navajo Nation, Hardy, 24, plans to revitalize the Navajo language and culture among all facets of Navajo society, particularly the youth.

Copyright permission by Native Sun News

Chickasaw Nation prepares for its annual meeting, festival Sept. 28-Oct. 5

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - Chickasaws from across the country will come home to celebrate the 2013 Chickasaw Nation annual Meeting and Festival, Sept. 28-Oct. 5. The theme for the 2013 Annual Meeting and Festival is "Coming Home: Sharing Our Stories."

"Chickasaws travel hundreds of miles to join in the annual Meeting and Festival each year to renew their connection to the

Chickasaw Nation," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "While Chickasaw people have always had a close connection to the land, the Chickasaw Nation is comprised of people who are bound together by culture and heritage. This year, we will celebrate the inspirational stories of those who call the Chickasaw Nation home."

This year marks the 53rd annual Meeting and the 25th Chickasaw Festival. Activities begin Sept. 27 and culminate Oct. 5.

Numerous events are planned for the week-long homecoming that celebrates Chickasaw heritage, culture and spirit. The 53rd annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation is highlighted by Anoatubby's State of the Nation Address. The address begins at 9 a.m., Oct. 5 at Fletcher Auditorium on the campus of Murray State College in Tishomingo.

Following the State of the Nation Address, Tishomingo's Main Street will be the scene of

the Festival Parade at 11:45 a.m.

A variety of exciting events and activities will take place throughout Tishomingo Oct. 5, at the historic Chickasaw Capitol, Pennington Park, Murray State College campus, Johnston County Sports complex and other venues.

For more information, visit www.chickasaw.net/annualmeeting or call 580-371-2040 or 1-800-593-3356.

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NBIII initiates obesity, diabetes fight

SANTA ANA PUEBLO, N.M. – The board of directors and staff of the Notah Begay III Foundation has launched a national initiative to expand the foundation's fight against childhood obesity and Type II diabetes in Native American children.

The initiative plans to lead extensive research and advocacy while assisting Native American communities in developing evidence-based health and wellness programs.

The initiative is set to begin with efforts in three regions of the country – the Southwest (New Mexico, Arizona), the Upper Midwest (Minnesota, Wisconsin) and the Southern Plains (Oklahoma, Texas). The focus was made possible through a generous \$1.5 million grant to NB3F by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of the nation's largest health foundations.



KEVIN RIVOLI | ASSOCIATED PRESS
Notah Begay III acknowledges the crowd after a birdie on the 18th hole to help the U.S. team win the 2012 Notah Begay III Foundation Challenge at Atunyote Golf Club at Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, N.Y.

“This is a transformative day for the Notah Begay III Foundation. It’s the next step in realizing our vision to empower Native American children nationwide to achieve their potential as tomorrow’s leaders,” NB3F founder Notah Begay III said. “Childhood obesity and Type II diabetes are epidemics in Native American communities. Until we invest the appropriate resources to turn the tide against these preventable diseases, they will continue to overwhelm our communities. There is still much more work to be done but, with the help of the great people at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the ongoing support of all our partners and donors, today we’ve taken a very important step toward accomplishing our mission.”

Begay said the foundation is grateful for the public’s continued support and

attention as programming is expanded to include Native children throughout the country.

“With your support NB3F believes the serious health issues facing Native communities can be stopped and we can give the Native leaders of tomorrow the tools they need to live healthy, active and balanced lives,” he said. “Together, we can help Native American children grow into the cultural protectors of tomorrow. It is NB3F’s hope that we can help Native American children live healthy, live strong and live Native.”

For more information, call 505-867-0775 or email info@nb3f.org or visit www.nb3foundation.org.

In 2005, Begay established the Notah Begay III Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, to address the profound health and wellness issues impacting Native American

children and to empower those youth and help them realize their potential as tomorrow’s leaders. The mission is to reduce the incidences of obesity and diabetes and advance the lives of Native American youth through sports and wellness programming.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing the country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care, it works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, measurable and timely change. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

IHCR Center hosting kids health, safety day

TULSA, Okla. – The Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa will host a pediatric teddy bear clinic and health fair at 10 a.m. to noon on Sept. 21 at 550 S. Peoria Ave.

A variety of health and safety information for children and parents will be available. The event is free and open to the public.

Children are encouraged to bring their favorite teddy bear, stuffed animal or doll to the health fair. During the event, the child will serve as the “parent” of the teddy bear or other stuffed animal while accompanying them through the different service areas of the clinic, which will include reception, waiting room, doctor’s exam, dental, optometry, health and wellness and radiology.

Children will also get prizes as they go throughout the clinic along with a fun experience at each medical department. If a child does not have a favorite toy with them, the center will

provide 125 children with a teddy bear.

“The Teddy Bear Clinic is designed to be a similar healthcare experience that a child might have when they go for an annual checkup,” IHCRCEO Carmelita Skeeter said. “Participation in the clinic will help kids become more familiar with a hospital setting and allow them to become more at ease when seeing a doctor.”

In addition to the children being able to take their teddy bears through the clinic, they will be able to explore an EMSA ambulance and racecars and motorcycles. They will also be able to take part in face painting, balloon twisting, games and activities throughout the event.

Also, parents and children will be able to enjoy the Tulsa County Library Reading Roadshow Bookmobile, Safe Kids Area car seat checks and many more community partners and activities.

Feds grant 1-year waiver for Insure Okla. program

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The federal government will let the state operate its Insure Oklahoma health care plan for another year to buy state leaders more time to consider an alternative plan to provide coverage to the working poor, Gov. Mary Fallin announced on Sept. 6.

Flanked by state health officials, Fallin called the extension a “great win for the people of Oklahoma.”

“Insure Oklahoma has been around since 2005. It’s been a success for thousands of small businesses that have used it to help their employees purchase insurance,” Fallin said. “It’s been a success for tens of thousands of families of modest means, who would be uninsured without it. Moving forward, I strongly encourage our federal partners to review Insure Oklahoma’s many successes and announce their support for a permanent, ongoing program.”

Insure Oklahoma, which provides coverage to about 30,000 Oklahoma residents through both individual and employer-sponsored plans, was scheduled to cease operating at the end of the year. Federal officials expected many of the recipients to be eligible for Medicaid expansion if they earned up to 138 percent of

federal poverty, or about \$32,499 for a family of four.

But amid bitter resistance from some Republicans, Fallin rejected both the Medicaid expansion and the opportunity to set up a state-based insurance exchange where Oklahomans could purchase health insurance with federal tax subsidies. Both were offered under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Instead, Oklahoma residents who earn up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$94,200 for a family of four, will be able to use federal tax subsidies to buy policies online through a federal exchange beginning Oct. 1.

But some state residents, including thousands on the Insure Oklahoma program, would have fallen into a “coverage crater” where they would have been ineligible for tax subsidies or Medicaid.

Under the one-year waiver, about 8,000 individuals currently on Insure Oklahoma who earn between 100 and 200 percent of federal poverty will instead purchase their health insurance through the federal exchange. Some of the co-pays required through Insure Oklahoma

also will be reduced, including a \$25 co-pay for doctor visits that will drop to \$4, said Nico Gomez, director of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the state agency that oversees the Medicaid program in Oklahoma.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services said federal officials are urging states to accept billions of dollars in available Medicaid funding made possible through the new federal health care law, which provides 100 percent federal funding for three years and then drops incrementally to 90 percent.

“We look forward to working with Oklahoma and all other states in bringing a flexible, state-based approach to Medicaid coverage expansion and encourage the state to explore these options,” spokeswoman Emma Sandoe said in a statement.

Republican legislators favor the Insure Oklahoma program over Medicaid expansion because individual recipients pay modest co-pays, with the rest of the premiums covered by employer payments in some cases, along with state and federal matching funds.

“There’s some personal responsibility in the plan,” Fallin said.

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Builder gets prison in home scam case

LAS VEGAS (AP) – A Nevada-based homebuilder was sentenced Tuesday to 51 months in federal prison for siphoning money allocated for Navajo Nation housing projects in Arizona and New Mexico for personal gambling, jewelry and thoroughbred racehorse training expenses.

William Aubrey, 71, of Mesquite, protested during his sentencing in Las Vegas that over the years he built thousands of affordable houses for tribe members.

“I apologize for what I guess I caused,” Aubrey told U.S. District Judge Kent Dawson.

But he accused the federal government and the Navajo Housing Authority of Window Rock, Ariz., of lying, and claimed that the federal jury that convicted him May 2 wasn’t told all the facts during his two-week trial.

Aubrey was found guilty of

two felony charges of conversion of money and funds from a tribal organization.

Aubrey and co-defendant Chester Carl, a former housing authority chief executive, were each acquitted of bribery and conspiracy charges.

Aubrey said that he didn’t understand how building thousands of affordable homes for hundreds of thousands of dollars less than other builders could land him in prison.

Aubrey’s defense lawyer, Michael Kennedy, compared funds that Aubrey was accused of co-mingling to water in one pail.

Kennedy said Aubrey used his own money to keep projects moving in Chilchinbeto, Ariz., and Springstead and Shiprock in New Mexico., and he asked the judge for a lenient sentence of a year and a day.

Dawson instead chose the low-end option from a pre-

sentencing recommendation ranging from 51 to 57 months. He added three years of supervised release including a prohibition against obtaining government contracts.

The judge scheduled a Sept. 15 hearing to determine how much restitution Aubrey will be ordered to pay.

“People who should have been paid weren’t paid because of the actions of Mr. Aubrey,” Dawson said. He said evidence was clear that Aubrey illegally co-mingled his money with housing authority money “in a way that it would be difficult to ascertain which was which.”

“Because of the failure to pay contractors, there was a cascade of consequences,” Dawson added.

A contractor, Gus Peterson, of Orofino, Idaho, and Gallup, N.M., told the judge he lost valuable construction equipment – a front-end loader,

dump truck, backhoe, fork lift and water truck – when he didn’t get paid for his work at Shiprock and couldn’t pay his loans.

James Burke, a Phoenix-based attorney for the housing authority, sought the maximum sentence.

“Mr. Aubrey was entrusted with a great deal of responsibility and money from the NHA,” Burke said. “He breached that trust by co-mingling funds, embezzling and stealing, and treating them as his own personal piggy bank to pay personal gambling debts.”

Burke also blamed Aubrey for actions that “fit into the stigma of government waste and government corruption,” tarnishing the reputation of the Navajo Housing Authority.

Aubrey was told report to federal prison Jan. 3.

Judge sends fees suit to tribal court

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) – A federal judge is sending to tribal court a lawsuit accusing the Narragansett Indian Tribe of failing to pay \$1.1 million in legal fees.

The Providence Journal reports that U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith said Massachusetts lawyer Douglas J. Luckerman entered into a relationship with the tribe and the tribal court has claim over lawsuits from that relationship. The judge said he’ll review the tribal court’s conclusions.

Luckerman sued the tribe in March, seeking unpaid legal fees, interest and court costs for representation following a 2003 state police raid on a tribal smoke shop.

Luckerman said the tribe waived its sovereign immunity.

A lawyer for Luckerman said he’s pleased Smith ruled that the tribe waived its sovereign immunity.

The tribe’s lawyer said Smith’s finding that the tribe waived its immunity raises concerns.

Federal judge agrees to halt megaloads for now

JOHN MILLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) – A federal judge Friday blocked giant oil-field equipment from moving on a winding Idaho highway toward Canada’s tar sands, a victory for the Nez Perce Tribe and environmentalists seeking to force energy companies to use another route.

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill barred the so-called megaloads from traveling through the federally designated Wild and Scenic River corridor along U.S. Highway 12 – at least for now.

First, Winmill wants the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests to assess impacts the enormous 225-foot-long, 640,000-pound water evaporator would have on the route and surrounding land,

then engage the Nez Perce Tribe over its concerns.

The highway passes through the National Forest and Nez Perce tribal land, and the American Indian group contends the route isn’t appropriate and the shipments could cause irreparable harm to its people’s traditional cultural and treaty rights.

“To allow a shipment with that potential to proceed before consulting with the Tribe is likely an abdication of statutory responsibilities,” Winmill wrote. Tribal members “are not seeking damages; they are seeking to preserve their Treaty rights along with cultural and intrinsic values that have no price tag,” he wrote.

The megaloads are owned by a General Electric Co. subsidiary, and the judge’s ruling puts its next shipment, originally slated to travel

from a port in Washington state to U.S. Highway 12 starting Wednesday, in doubt. The Nez Perce Tribe has little incentive to expedite a process governing loads it doesn’t want to move through its north-central Idaho reservation.

GE says it faces millions of dollars in damages and penalties from customers, if it doesn’t get its evaporators to northern Alberta’s tar sands on time.

Winmill said he was sensitive to the company’s financial plight, but that wasn’t his problem.

“This loss could have been avoided,” he wrote. GE “knowingly put its loads into a position where the company would incur \$5 million in losses if it must wait for the Forest Service review.”

After the ruling, William Heins, chief operating officer

for the GE subsidiary that’s shipping the evaporator, said his company believes it met requirements to safely transport the vessel and “now must review our options.”

Craig Trulock, a Nez Perce-Clearwater district ranger in Kooskia along Highway 12, said its study of shipments’ impacts to the corridor is slated to be completed by September’s end, though he’s uncertain of the timeline for consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe.

“That will depend on the tribe and how much information they want to share,” Trulock said Friday.

When GE shipped its first evaporator along the route in August, 20 protesters were arrested trying to block the way, including Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Silas Whitman. In addition to Highway 12 concerns, some oppose shipments in

solidarity with Canadian “First Nations” groups that have objected to energy development in Alberta’s tar sands.

In a statement Friday, Whitman pledged to continue to consult with the Forest Service, ensure Highway 12 isn’t “transformed into an industrial corridor,” he said.

Earlier this year, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests leaders also expressed concern about the GE shipments and asked the Idaho Transportation Department to delay issuing permits.

But when ITD issued the permit for the first GE load in August, however, the National Forest opted not to block it.

Instead, Forest Service officials said they were studying the issue, planning talks with tribal leaders but not yet exercising

any enforcement power on grounds they were still uncertain about the extent of their authority to shutter Highway 12 to big transports.

Laird Lucas, a Boise-based lawyer for environmental group Idaho Rivers United, said Friday Winmill’s order makes that authority crystal clear by calling an obligatory “time out” for the Forest Service to assess impacts, then engage the tribe – without having to bow to political pressure from GE or the state of Idaho to force shipments through.

“These loads are larger than the Statue of Liberty,” Lucas said. “Imagine them trying to haul the Statue of Liberty up the narrow, winding Lochsa River Canyon.”



EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.**

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from

6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnycc@ihcrc.org

SEPTEMBER 20
Kanza Health Fair from 9 a.m. till noon at the Johnny Ray McCauley Building on River Road Newkirk, OK. Lunch will be served. The popular one mile walk will be from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. The first 100 walkers will receive a “hoodie.” There will be over 40 vendors which includes the Lions Club Mobile Van, OBI blood Mobile Van, and a Dental Van. There will be many door prizes including a grand prize.

SEPTEMBER 20-22
45th Annual Seminole Nation Days, Mekusukey Mission, downtown and other venues, Seminole, OK. For more information: <http://sno-nsn.gov/culture/snodays>.

SEPTEMBER 21
Homesteading event at In A Good Way Farm, 13359 SE 1101 AVE, Talihina. Learn self-sustainability crafts and practices, participate in demonstrations. Free to attend. Choctaw cultural demonstrations, plus quilts, crafts and food sales. Bring a lawn chair and wear your sunscreen. Info, contact Teddi 918-567-3313 or email inagoodway@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 21
Mannford Cowboy Trade Day just off Highway 51 only 25 minutes West of Tulsa – watch for signs.

Lots of great vendors, lots of great food, pony and wagon rides, chuckwagon by Frontier Ministries, cowboy shootout, cowboy poetry and music! Info call Billy Treadwell at Wicked Pony Trading Co in Mannford (918) 865-3991 or email to billy_treadwell@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 21
Robber’s Cave State Park Performing Arts Festival, 10am - 6pm. Non-stop performances, food and craft vendors and more. Call Nathan Johnson for more information at 580-320-3102.

SEPTEMBER 24
A Taste of Native Oklahoma Lunches. 11 am-2 pm. Featuring Indian Tacos & More. No deliveries but we will take call in orders. Jacobson House Native Art Center, 609 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK. For more information: 405-366-1667.

SEPTEMBER 26
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. The public is invited to the opening reception at 1:06 p.m. at Lawton’s McMahon Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris Avenue. The exhibit will be on display through August 31, 2014. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

SEPTEMBER 27
Presentation by Lois Smoky with Heather Ahtone. Jacobson

House Native Art Center, 609 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK. For more information: 405-366-1667.

SEPTEMBER 27-28
Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

SEPTEMBER 27-29
22nd Annual Comanche Nation Fair. More information will be given as it is finalized. For more information: Tomah Yeahquo, 580-492-3384.

SEPTEMBER 28
Ride for the Vets Poker Run benefit for veterans served by the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee. For more information, please contact Voluntary Service at 918-577-3621, 3358 or 3622.

SEPTEMBER 28
Fall Gourd Dance, Norman First American OKC, 1950 Beaumont Dr., Norman, OK. 2:00 pm-8:00 pm. Supper at 5:30pm. Arts & Crafts vendors (no food vendors). Bring your own chairs and shelter. For more information: Mary Lou Drywater, 405-361-2393.

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 5
Coming Home: Sharing Our Stories. The 53rd Annual Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and 25th Annual Chickasaw Festival. Events and Festivities are scheduled

throughout the week in Tishomingo, Ada, Emet, Kullihoma and Sulphur. For more information and a schedule of events: www.Chickasaw.net/annualmeeting

OCTOBER 4-5
Fort Sill Indian School Annual Reunion, Campus Gym, Lawton, 7 pm to 11 pm on Friday 10 am to 11 pm Saturday Contact Phyllis Hunter 405.247.1558 (work)

OCTOBER 5
Indian Taco Sale at Haikey Chapel United Indian Church located at 8515 E 101st St., Tulsa. Tacos and a drink for \$ 7.00. They will be sold from 11 am till 3 pm on Sat. Info contact 918 815 7973 sancrandall@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 19
Pryor Wellbriety Powwow, Mid-American Expo Center, Pryor (four miles south of Pryor). Gourd dancing at 2pm & 5pm. Grand Entry at 6pm. Free admission. Info call Mary Hayes, 918-698-0583. All Drums Welcome!

OCTOBER 26
Bacone Fall Pow Wow 2013 Noon - 11 P.M. at Muskogee Civic Center, W. Okmulgee & 5th Street Muskogee. Contest Powwow, free admission. All Princesses, Drums, Singers and Dancers invited. Vendor Info: Asa Lewis 918-360-0057 or lewis@bacone.edu PW Info: Connie Falleaf 918-687-3299 or falleafc@bacone.edu Like us on Facebook!

C&A SITES

Continued from Page 1

Signed in April, the agreement called for the state to receive 20 percent of the site's total profit. The BIA notified the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration of its objection in August, noting that a more appropriate share for the state would be closer to 10 percent of the gross revenue.

The resolution set to go before the council next month claims that the contract for PokerTribes.com and BingoTribes.com was signed illegally without the consent of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Council. No resolutions concerning the contracts could be found on any Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Council agendas or minutes published between October 2011 and August 2013. Under Article VII of the tribes' constitution, contracts must be approved by the Tribal Council, which is made up of all tribal citizens age 18 or older. At least 75 members must attend a tribal council meeting to establish quorum.

The resolution also asks that the funds tied up in the websites be returned to the tribal treasury.

To date, the Boswell administration has paid Universal Entertainment Group \$9.4 million for both PokerTribes.com and BingoTribes.com, including a \$499,999.99 check with the same date stamp as a tribal press release announcing that the tribes were officially in a state of emergency due to financial problems stemming from the ongoing dispute between the Prairie Chief-Boswell and Wandrie-Harjo administrations, including a Custer County, Okla., court freezing \$6.4 million of the tribes' assets. With questions still in place over who is the tribe's legitimate governor, those assets are still under the court's administration.

Currently, Prairie Chief-Boswell is listed as the tribes' governor in a Bureau of Indian Affairs nationwide listing of tribal leaders and is recognized by the state of Oklahoma as the Cheyenne and Arapaho's governor.

Under the Cheyenne and Arapaho constitution, the penalty for embezzlement is up to one year of jail time and a fine of \$5,000 per count convicted.

Neither the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration nor Universal Entertainment Group responded to requests for comment by deadline.

KIALEGEE

Continued from Page 1

in an injunction that would keep the facility from opening.

Despite the reassurances, no work has been done on the site since Judge Gregory Frizzell handed down a preliminary injunction in May 2012. That same month, the National Indian Gaming Commission determined that the Kialegee Tribal Town did not have sufficient jurisdiction over the property to legally conduct gaming.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council voted down a subsequent proposal to assume responsibility for the project.

The four companies are seeking damages equal to the amount they lost in loans for the project, expenses incurred during the casino's development and construction and their legal fees incurred during the project's ongoing litigation with the state of Oklahoma.

Earlier this month, the 10th Circuit



Mekko Tiger Hobia

Court of Appeals announced it would not take any action on a pending appeal in a related lawsuit between Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and Kialegee Tribal Town officials pending the outcome of a Supreme Court case concerning sovereign immunity from state lawsuits.

Whittlesey could not be reached for comment.

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NADC PTAC is seeking an Associate Procurement Specialist to provide technical assistance in government contracting to Native American owned businesses on the Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Lower Brule and Crow Creek reservations. The position is full time and located on the Standing Rock reservation. A Bachelor's degree and knowledge in procurement processes are requirements as well as the ability to travel. Resumes with references are due no later than 5:00 MST 9/30/13. For more information, please visit www.nadc-nabn.org



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OPENING EVENT

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Son of Comanche Code Talker Platoon Commander
Lieutenant (later Major General) Hugh F. Foster, Jr.



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comanchemuseum.com
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Inside this issue:

- Another stay issued in water lawsuit
- Kathina by day, ‘Killswitch’ by night
- Opera singer joins Music Hall of Fame



NATIVE TIMES



IHS expands access to Plan B for Native women

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – Native American women seeking emergency contraception at Indian Health Services facilities managed by the federal government now can get it without a consultation or prescription.

The agency had come under fire from women’s health advocates who said it needed to make the morning-after pill more accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native women. IHS has no retail pharmacies, and critics said Native women faced long wait times for Plan B because they had to compete with all the other patients seeking emergency care at clinics, urgent care centers or at emergency rooms.

IHS said more than a year ago that it was finalizing a

See IHS on Page 2

Cheyenne Arapaho factions release candidate lists for upcoming election

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – The candidate lists are out for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ primary election next month, but which one will be recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is still anybody’s guess.

Thanks to an ongoing leadership dispute between Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell and Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, the Bureau of Indian Affairs agreed earlier this year to provide technical assistance to the tribes’ election commission. However, the BIA still has not disclosed which faction it will be working with, prompting each claimant governments’ election commissions

to distribute candidate lists in the last few weeks. Earlier this summer, representatives for both sides said a compromise was not an option, so the commission affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration continues to work out of the tribes’ complex in Concho and the Wandrie-Harjo government’s commission is based out of Weatherford.

Despite the uncertainty of whose efforts will be recognized by the federal government, one side has already announced and certified four winners in advance of the Oct. 8 primary election.

Under the tribes’ constitution,

See ELECTIONS on Page 3



FILE PHOTO
Leslie Wandrie-Harjo (left) and Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell were elected together to lead the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes four years ago. Their political split has resulted in two operating governments - and two election commissions and candidate lists for the Tribe’s upcoming election.

Okla. DHS warns of cuts to SNAP program beginning Nov. 1

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is warning Oklahomans who receive food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – or SNAP – that cuts are coming on Nov. 1.

The SNAP program was formerly known as Food Stamps and its benefits were increased in 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help offset the recession.

The increased benefits will expire Oct. 31.

DHS says the effect on

individual households will vary – but a family of four with no income and no other changes to their case will see a decline in monthly food benefits of \$36.

A record of 628,956 Oklahomans received SNAP benefits in August.

Veronica case goes to Okla. court No. 8

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – And then there were eight.

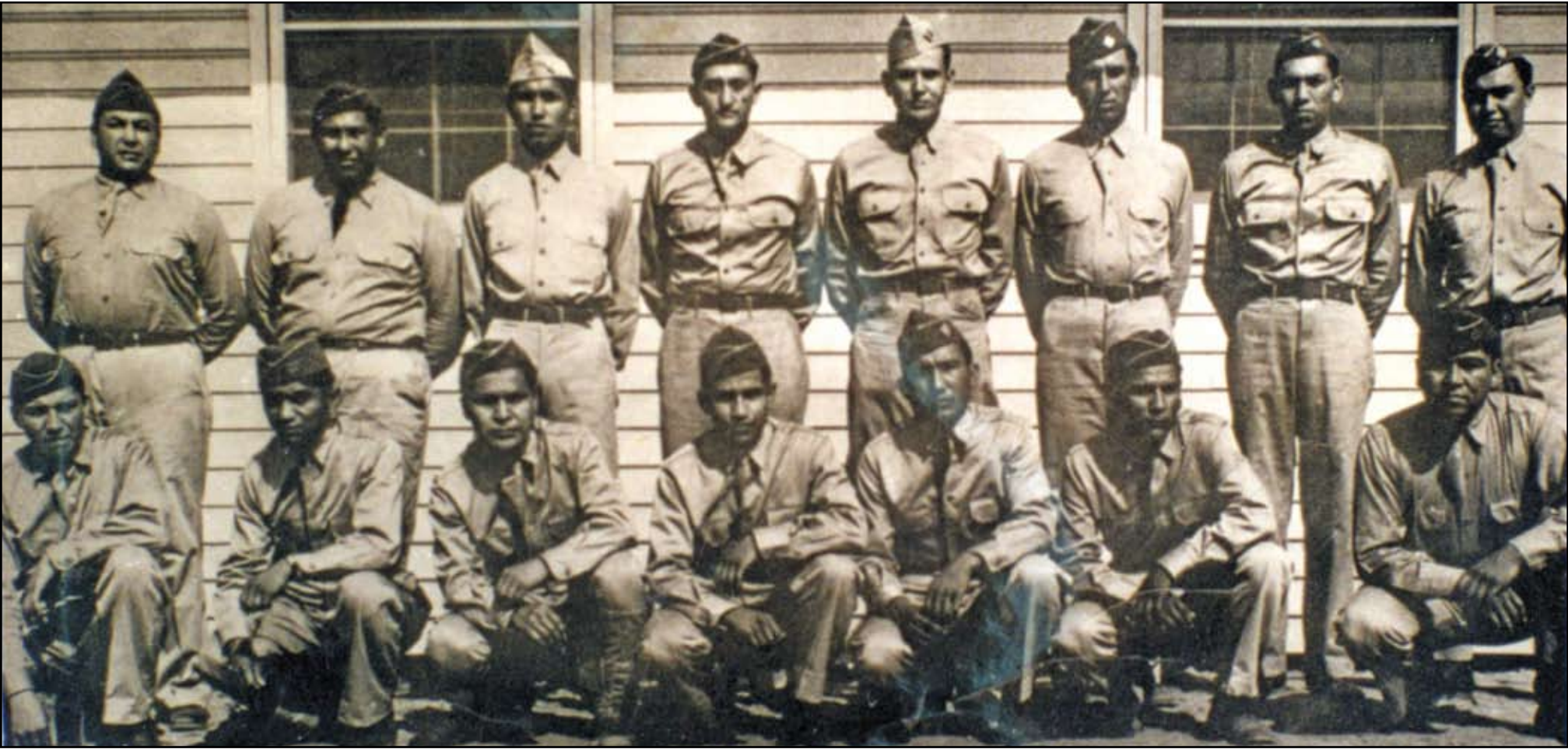
Along with their attorneys, Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown and Matt and Melanie Capobianco spent five days in mediation talks in the Tulsa Court of Civil Appeals, the eighth Oklahoma courtroom to host the ongoing custody

fight for Brown’s four-year-old daughter, Veronica.

Due to a gag order and a seal on all court records, it is unclear what, if any progress has been made. The entire floor used for negotiations was closed to the public, with no one allowed beyond the west Tulsa facility’s elevators.

Earlier this month, the Oklahoma Supreme Court agreed to take up at least one of Brown’s two pending

See VERONICA on Page 3



Comanche Code Talkers at Fort Benning, Georgia

COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON D.C.

Exhibit honors Comanche Code Talkers

CANDY MORGAN
Comanche Museum Media Release

They voluntarily joined the Army during troubled times. There were 17 – all energetic young Comanche men who called the red dirt plains of Southwest

Oklahoma “home.” The year was 1941. They were fresh out of Indian boarding schools and ready to take on the world. These young men landed in the middle of a global fight, and in an ironic twist, went on to defend a country that once did all it could to rid them of their language and

traditional ways. At the time, that didn’t matter. Their country was in the heat of battle and a Comanche warrior never backs down from a fight. History now refers to these men as Comanche Code Talkers. Although the Comanche language was utilized in battle during World War I, it

wasn’t until World War II that an organized code was developed. Twenty-one Comanche men were hand-picked by the U.S. government to participate in the Code Talker program. Seventeen of those men went on to enlist in the Army and received training as radio operators and line

repairmen with the 4th Infantry Division. The Army gave the Comanche soldiers free rein to use their native language to develop a secret code that no one outside of the group would understand, including other

See COMANCHE on Page 4



Members of the “The Otoe-Missouria Home Place at Barneston” group and volunteers gather at a farmhouse in Barneston, Neb., recently for a workday. The group analyzed the home for links to an old Indian Mission School that was in Barneston.

EMILY DECK | BEATRICE DAILY SUN

Group preserving house with link to Otoe Nebraska reservation

EMILY DECK
Beatrice Daily Sun

BARNESTON, Neb. (AP) – A group has incorporated itself to preserve the only physical link to the Big Blue Reservation.

After years of stopping and starting on the preservation of an old farmhouse in Barneston, “The Otoe-Missouria Home Place at Barneston” group has taken on the project.

“It is to me just a step in the right direction to have a stand-alone group that is dedicated just to preservation of this building along with that the telling of the story that it represents,” founding group member Lori McAlister said.

She and the other founding members, Matthew Jones, Lauren Riedesel and Kathy Paul, went to the

farmhouse site recently for a workday. They believe it was made from parts of the three-story Indian Mission School built in 1874-75 in Barneston.

The school that served as a kind of consolidated school for Otoe children had as many as 30 pupils at a time.

The details of what happened to school building are not clear. It may have been destroyed by natural disasters or dismantled. The Otoe tribe eventually was moved to Oklahoma. In the 1980s, a group of women raised money to save the farmhouse from destruction. As part of their workday, “The Otoe-Missouria Home Place at Barneston” members spent their time winterizing the home and analyzing it for clues to link it to the school.

From the windows to plaster to stairway, Riedesel is certain the farmhouse has school pieces in it.

“This is what is left of a whole history of this area,” Riedesel said. “This is the one remnant we’ve got that goes back to reservation days even if it is kind of a conglomeration.”

McAlister said the goal of the group is to preserve the structure so it reflects the farmhouse and the Indian Mission School and to use it as platform to tell the Otoes’ story.

“It is usually not enough to say once upon a time there was something here,” Riedesel said. “It is hard to get people to realize if we want to be able to tell that story we need to hold on this.”

Another goal for the group is to eventually get the structure put on the National Register of Historic Places. Anyone interested in the project can call 402-802-2099 or email mcalisterson@windstream.net.

Choctaw, Chickasaw water lawsuit gets 120-day stay

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Yet another stay has been handed down in the ongoing water rights lawsuit involving two Oklahoma tribes.

On Tuesday, a federal judge honored a request from the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, as well as Oklahoma City officials and the Oklahoma Water Rights Board, for a 120-day stay in a lawsuit aimed at stopping the city from taking water from sources in southeastern Oklahoma without tribal consent.

This is the sixth stay granted in the suit, first filed back in 2011.

Citing the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the tribes are seeking a permanent injunction preventing a proposed water transfer from Sardis Lake to Oklahoma City unless the transaction is

either negotiated with the tribes or court-ordered. The injunction would also be extended to any potential transfers to Texas and any future transfers outside of the tribe’s jurisdiction. Sardis Lake is a federal reservoir in Pushmataha and Latimer counties in southeastern Oklahoma. It is within the Choctaw Nation’s jurisdiction.

In addition to Sardis Lake, the Kiamichi Basin, Clear Boggy Basin and Atoka Lake are also specifically listed in the lawsuit. Oklahoma City has been receiving water from those locations for several years without the tribes’ approval.

Oklahoma City receives about half of its water supply from lakes and reservoirs within the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations.

A gag order is in place in the lawsuit, limiting comments from all parties involved.



FILE PHOTO

A federal judge has issued the sixth stay in the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations’ lawsuit against the Oklahoma Water Rights Board regarding Sardis Lake.

IHS

Continued from Page 1

policy to provide the drug directly to patients. That policy hasn’t been released, but the agency told The Associated Press that all IHS facilities run by the federal government are now under a verbal directive to provide Plan B to women 17 years and older at pharmacy windows without a prescription.

“I want to reassure you that we have taken this issue seriously, and the IHS has, on several occasions this year, confirmed access to FDA-approved emergency contraceptive products in all IHS federally operated facilities with pharmacies,” the agency wrote in response to questions from the AP.

The verbal directive to IHS area directors came as welcome news and a sign of progress

to the Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center in Lake Andes, S.D., and to U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer of California. The resource center said it is moving forward with educating women on misconceptions about the morning-after pill and how to access it, focusing on South Dakota, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Meanwhile, women’s health advocates are pushing IHS to issue a written policy on emergency contraception.

“A verbal directive can be rescinded at any time,” Boxer said through a spokeswoman. “We need a permanent policy that says that all IHS facilities, including those that serve Alaska Natives, shall carry and offer emergency contraceptives consistent with law.”

IHS said it is working to update its pharmacy policy but would hold all employees accountable for following the verbal directive

on medication.

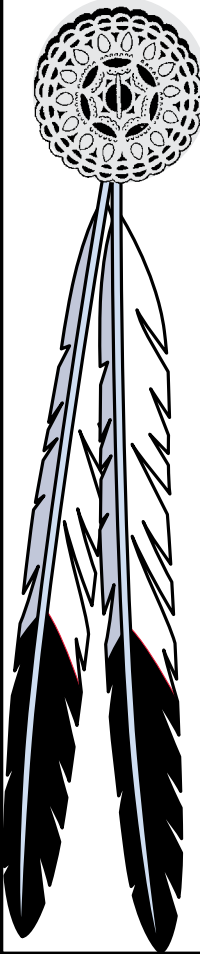
Charon Asetoyer, resource center director, said she’s also looking to IHS to provide unrestricted sales of the Plan B One-Step morning-after pill. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in June lifted all age limits on the emergency contraception after months of back-and-forth legal battles. The Obama administration promised a federal judge it would take that step after women’s health advocates pushed for easier access for more than a decade.

“We’ve made some progress, and we have to acknowledge that, but there’s still more,” Asetoyer said. “They’re still violating our rights to access by denying women who are age 16 and under. ... We have to ask, why are we being treated differently?”

Quick, easy access to emergency contraception is crucial considering the prevalence of domestic abuse and rape of

Native women, Asetoyer said. One-third of all American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped in their lifetime, and nearly three of five had been assaulted by their partner, the U.S. Department of Justice has said.

The IHS said Plan B One-Step would be available without a prescription for all ages once products with the FDA labeling are available. While Native women can go to any pharmacy at a federally managed IHS facility and get Plan B without a prescription, the rules can be different at facilities run by American Indian tribes. More than half of the IHS budget is administered by tribes through self-determination contracts or self-governance contracts. The medication is free for Native women because of the federal government’s trust obligation to provide health care to them. Any woman 17 and older can buy Plan B from retail pharmacies.



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LISA SNELL | NATIVETIMES
Cherokee Nation citizen Dusten Brown walks to the Cherokee Nation's Courthouse earlier this year for a hearing regarding his daughter Veroincia, whom a South Carolina couple is trying to adopt.

VERONICA

Continued from Page 1

appeals, contesting the Capobiancos' attempted adoption of his daughter. Working with an agency, Veronica's birth mother, Christy Maldonado, selected the James Island, S.C., couple in 2009 to adopt the girl after her relationship with Brown deteriorated.

Under the direction of the South Carolina Supreme Court, a Charleston family court judge awarded custody to the Capobiancos in July after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled

that the Indian Child Welfare Act did not automatically give Brown custody, thus reversing an earlier decision that gave Brown his daughter back.

At different stages, this on-going dispute has gone before judges in five Oklahoma county courts and in Cherokee Nation District Court.

Thanks to a previously issued stay, Veronica will remain with her biological family in Oklahoma while the appeals process plays out. However, the court has not made the stay a permanent one, leaving open the possibility that it could be lifted before all appeals are exhausted. Veronica has lived with Brown for almost two years.

Court revises opinion in Ariz. Indian status case

FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A federal appeals court is sticking with a ruling that significantly reduced an Arizona man's sentence on assault and firearms charges, but the court made an important revision in the case that questioned his status as American Indian.

A panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in January that it's up to a jury to determine whether a tribe is recognized by the federal government. The court pulled back that opinion without explanation last month, and issued a revised one Sept. 20 that said it's a matter of law for the judge to decide.

University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman said the opinion is important in that it clears up the issue of federal recognition.

"The court has now said that these tribes, as a matter of law, are recognized by the federal government, and that doesn't need to be proven," he said. "And this opinion solely depends on whether the government provided sufficient evidence that (Damien) Zepeda is derived from that tribe."

The appeals court found that it did not, and reversed Zepeda's convictions on eight of nine charges.

Zepeda is an enrolled citizen of the Gila River Indian Community, but the appellate court said prosecutors did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that his bloodline of one-quarter Pima and one-quarter Tohono O'odham derived from a tribe recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

That's the first step to charging him with felony offenses on reservation land that can carry stiffer sentences than the same offenses prosecuted by tribal courts. A two-part test determines who is Indian for purposes of federal jurisdiction for crimes on reservation land. The first requirement is that a defendant's bloodline must derive from a federally recognized tribe.

A lower court must now resentence Zepeda on a conspiracy charge that carries a maximum punishment of five years and applies equally to everyone, everywhere within the United States. He is serving a 90-year sentence.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona, Cosme Lopez, said the office was reviewing the opinion and its options. The government had argued in a request for rehearing that the BIA's list of federally recognized tribes should settle the question of recognition.

The Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona is on that list, as is the Gila River Indian Community, which is made up of Pima and Maricopa Indians. But Zepeda's enrollment certificate didn't specify whether Tohono O'odham referred to the Arizona tribe or the populations in Arizona and Mexico.

Justice Paul Watford, whose lengthy dissent was shortened to one paragraph in the revised opinion, said he agrees with most of the majority's analysis. But he said he believes a rational jury could infer that the reference to Tohono O'odham on Zepeda's tribal enrollment certificate is to the group in Arizona.

Zepeda's attorney did not respond to requests for comment.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

candidates for governor and lieutenant governor file and run together, similar to federal elections. The only pair to file with both election boards was former governor Darrell Flyingman and his running mate, Adrianna Harris. The pair has since been removed from the candidate list distributed by the Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission. They were the only ticket to file with the election commission affiliated with the Wandrie-Harjo administration and were among those listed as certified winners in a notice published in the Watonga Republican Sept. 18, a move characterized by the opposition as an attempted coup.

"Darrell Flyingman knows he cannot win this election legitimately, so he has resorted to illegal tricks to subvert the will of our tribe members. He will do anything to get back into power so he can again use tribal funds like his own piggybank," Prairie Chief-Boswell said. "His political henchmen continue to spread ridiculous rumors and unfounded allegations in order to put their own interests ahead of the tribe's. It's an insult to every one of us."

When reached Thursday evening via email, Flyingman denounced Prairie Chief-Boswell's remarks as "garbage." Frederick Blackbear, chairman of the Wandrie-Harjo affiliated election commission did not respond to requests for comment.

Along with the executive branch offices, four of the eight seats in the tribes' legislature are also on this year's ballot. Under the Cheyenne and Arapaho constitution, the tribes' jurisdictional area is divided into four districts, with each district having a Cheyenne representative and an Arapaho representative. Aside from including the same districts, the slates published by the claimant election commissions have very little in common.

Each commission has a single candidate running in Cheyenne District No. 4, with Kyle Orange on the ticket published by the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration and current legislator Fiona Whiteskunk on the ticket published by the Wandrie-Harjo administration.

The Wandrie-Harjo-affiliated election commission also certified winners in Cheyenne District No. 2 and Arapaho District No. 2.

Aside from Cheyenne District No. 4, the Prairie Chief-Boswell-affiliated election commission does not have any uncontested races.

Current Arapaho District No. 1 representative Jane Nightwalker is the only legislative candidate to file with both election commissions and drew an opponent on both tickets. Edward Mosqueda filed with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration and Monica Allen filed with the Wandrie-Harjo administration.

Nedra Darling, spokeswoman for the BIA, did not respond to email requests for comment by press time.

Prairie Chief-Boswell Election Commission candidate list:

Governor/Lieutenant governor
Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell/Connie Hart-Yellowman
Rollin Hamilton/Cornell Sankey
Roberta Hamilton/Jerry Levi

Cheyenne District No. 2
(Calumet, El Reno, Kingfisher areas)
Ramona Tallbear
George Woods
Alan Fletcher

Cheyenne District No. 4 (Elk City, Hammon areas)
Kyle Orange (unopposed)
Arapaho District No. 1
(Seiling, Watonga, Longdale areas)
Edward Eugene Mosqueda
Jane Nightwalker

Arapaho District No. 2
(Calumet, El Reno, Kingfisher areas)
Dale Hamilton
Michael Martin
Christine Morton

Wandrie-Harjo Election Commission candidate list
Governor/Lieutenant governor
Darrell Flyingman/Adrianna Harris (unopposed)

Cheyenne District No. 2
Marlin Hawk (unopposed)

Cheyenne District No. 4
Fiona Whiteskunk (unopposed)

Arapaho District No. 1
Monica Allen
Jane Nightwalker

Arapaho District No. 2
Michael Kodaseet (unopposed)

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DEIDRE BACON | COURTESY CHOCTAW NATION
Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, the Tribal Council, Oklahoma State Rep. R.C. Pruett, county and city officials, local citizens and many descendants of Choctaw Code Talkers were on hand to be a part of dedicating a stretch of Oklahoma Highway 3 to the elite group of Choctaw soldiers.

Choctaw Code Talkers honored with Hwy 3 stretch

LISA REED
Choctaw Nation

The World War I Choctaw Code Talkers will forever have a 55-mile stretch of Highway 3 from Antlers to Broken Bow commemorating the elite group.

The Choctaw Nation and Choctaw Code Talkers Association held a dedication ceremony Sept. 6, on the west side of Antlers where the State of Oklahoma placed the highway sign.

Another sign marks the beginning of the WWI Choctaw Code Talkers

Highway in Broken Bow.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, the Tribal Council, Oklahoma State Rep. R.C. Pruett, county and city officials, local citizens and many of the Code Talkers' descendants were on hand to be a part of the historic occasion.

Most of the 19 World War I Choctaw Code Talkers resided in the state's 19th district and walked the highway often. Many of the descendants still reside in that area, too.

Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I were Albert Billy, Mitchell Bobb,

Victor Brown, Ben Carterby, Benjamin Colbert Jr., George Davenport, Joseph Davenport, James Edwards, Tobias Frazier, Ben Hampton, Noel Johnson, Otis Leader, Solomon Louis, Peter Maytubby, Jeff Nelson, Joseph Oklahombi, Robert Taylor, Walter Veach and Calvin Wilson.

Continuing the service in World War II were Choctaw Code Talkers Schlicht Billy, Andrew Perry, Davis Pickens and Forrester Baker.

For more information, go to choctawnation.com or choctawcodetalkersassociation.com.

COMANCHE

Continued from Page 1

Comanches. The move proved successful. It took a military machine four hours to transmit and decode a message, but a Code Talker could decode the message in less than three minutes. Their codes were never broken. Fourteen of the Comanche soldiers went overseas to fight in the European Theater. Thirteen of them hit the beaches of Normandy with Allied troops during the D-Day invasion. When the 4th Infantry Division began its assault on Utah Beach, the division was off its landing target. The first message sent from the beach was sent in Comanche from Code Talker PFC Larry Saupitty, who was the radioman for Brigadier Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. His message: "We made a good landing. We landed in the wrong place." Of the five beaches in Normandy, the 4th Infantry was the first Allied Force to engage Fortress Europe.

The U.S. military used dozens of tribal languages to transmit codes during World War II, but it's the Navajo Code Talkers that most are familiar with. In 2001, the U.S. government recognized the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers for their actions in the Pacific Theater by presenting the surviving Navajo Marines with individual Congressional medals. A year later, Congress introduced a bill to allow the same recognition for the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I and the Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. It took six years before the Code Talker Recognition Act was signed by then-President George W. Bush. The act includes 13 tribes, but additional tribes have since come forward asking for their soldiers to be honored. The Comanches will be one of the 13 tribes to receive recognition at a ceremony tentatively set for this fall in Washington, D.C. Sadly, none of the Comanche Code Talkers lived to see their special day on Capitol Hill.

Until now, little has been known about the

Comanche Code Talkers. The military did not order them to keep silent about their jobs during World War II. However, mostly due to security concerns, the program was not discussed outside the Comanche community.

Educating the public about the Comanche Code Talkers takes priority for the staff at the Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, located in Lawton, Okla. In light of the upcoming medal ceremony, the CNMCC is set to unveil an exhibit that pays tribute to the contributions of these men. Comanche Code of Honor features several rarely-seen Comanche Code Talker items and photographs on loan to the museum from the families and close friends of the Code Talkers.

"These men are true American heroes yet their actions remain largely unknown," said CNMCC Executive Director Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi. "The time has come for that to change. We owe these men that much."

The CNMCC is also set to unveil a video interactive that lets visitors experience Normandy's Utah Beach just as the Code Talkers.

"Our staff has spent hours researching the Comanche Code Talkers in order to make the interactive as realistic as possible," Wahahrockah-Tasi said. "We want to do all we can to make sure that the Comanche Code Talkers receive their rightful place in American history. Dozens of tribes were used by the military as Code Talkers but what makes this story so unique is the fact that only two tribes, the Navajo and the Comanche, actually went to a Communications School and each developed their exceptional codes. The Comanche Code Talkers helped protect the lives of thousands of American Soldiers during World War II. It's our privilege to tell their story."

For more information, go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

Group announces sale of Okla. wind energy

■ The Osage Nation is opposed to the renewable energy development because tribal officials say it threatens eagle populations and cultural sites.

PAWHUSKA, Okla. (AP) – Wind Capital Group has announced that it's selling its Osage County Wind development project to TradeWind Energy and its foreign parent company, but a local American Indian tribe is still concerned the project may

go ahead without required federal, environmental and cultural studies.

The project has been opposed by the Osage Nation and wildlife groups because of the threat it could pose to golden and bald eagle populations, as well as possible damage to sensitive cultural sites in the area during construction.

"This sale in no way changes our opposition to wind farm development in Osage County," the tribe's assistant chief, Scott BigHorse, said in a statement. "We see this as Wind Capital selling off the project to a foreign

company with even less awareness, understanding and concern for the preservation of our Nation's sacred bird and historical sites in the area.

"We haven't been contacted by or even spoken to the new owner, which is very troubling," he said.

Wind Capital has said the project has wide support among landowners and government officials. The company has estimated the project would provide more than \$30 million in property tax revenue to the county, give an economic boost to the area and create 250 construction jobs.



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Cherokee Nation citizen Kathina “Killswitch” Catron makes her boxing debut during the July 19 “Cherokee Fight Club” event at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa, Okla. Catron’s aggressive style was no match for her opponent Tiffany Alexander of Moore. Catron won in the first round with a technical knockout.

WILL CHAVEZ | COURTESY CHEROKEE PHOENIX

Kathina by day... ‘Killswitch’ by night

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Seven-year-old Coy Catron likes to brag about his mother’s side job. If your mother was a mixed martial arts champion, wouldn’t you?

“He’s my biggest fan,” Cherokee Nation citizen Kathina “Killswitch” Catron said. “He tells everyone his mom’s a fighter.”

A full-time operating room scrub technician at W.W. Hastings Hospital by day, Catron earned the Xtreme Fight Night flyweight title earlier this month, defeating Suzy Watson earlier this month at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

Her recent title came with a stiff price. In the championship bout, Catron took a year-ending right overhand blow to the jaw in an early round. She had surgery Friday to repair the damage and will be recovering for the next 12 weeks, including spending the first five with her mouth wired shut.

“I hope to be back in the cage in January,” she said. “I will still be able to do a lot of things, including cardio and weight training. I just won’t be able to do any sparring for a while.”

One of two women to train with Battleground MMA, Catron was introduced to the sport by her boyfriend and manager, Scott Lowe. At 5’3” and 115 pounds, the 27-year-old is the smallest person in her training group but does not use her size as an excuse.

“It is intense,” she said. “I work out four or five hours per day, with a mix of strength training, cardio, more cardio, then heavy, grueling sparring. We do a lot of cardio since I’m fighting at the professional level, my rounds are longer than an amateur’s and the competition’s more advanced.”

“If someone really wanted to get into this and make it a lifestyle, it’s what it is. This sport requires training every day”

That everyday training has not run off Catron’s biggest fan. Coy is often on hand for those extended workout sessions after school, doing his homework at the gym while his mother trains in the evenings after work and planning for his potential career in the family business.

“We train so hard that the fight is comparatively easy,” Catron said. “When you win and get your hand raised (by the referee), it’s a whole new feeling and it’s just exciting.”

Ariz. museum to screen Navajo-dubbed ‘Star Wars’

PHOENIX (AP) – “Star Wars” fans in Phoenix will have a chance to experience a Native American take on “the Force.”

The Heard Museum announced it will host a free screening Oct. 6 of the 1977 sci-fi flick, completely dubbed in Navajo.

Some of the cast members who provided the Navajo voices are expected to attend as well as translators.

This version of the film is expected to screen in various cities nationwide.

The Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock worked with Lucasfilm Ltd. to get the movie dubbed.

A team of five Navajo speakers spent 36 hours translating the script for “Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope.”

Seats for the screening are by reservation only. There will be a limit of four seats per reservation.

Delaware Nation gets \$950K economic grant

ANADARKO, Okla. (AP) – The Delaware Nation of Oklahoma is being awarded a \$950,000 economic development grant.

The U.S. Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration grant is part of \$8 million in grants announced Thursday to support economic development projects in Oklahoma

and four other states.

The Anadarko-based Delaware Nation is to use its funding to renovate a former carpet mill and rehabilitate an adjoining rail spur to accommodate the Greentech Technology Center.

The new center is intended to support manufacturing businesses.

The project is expected to help create 150 jobs.

\$400K grant given to N.M. group for Native business

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – A New Mexico organization has received a federal grant to expand efforts aimed at boosting the development of Native American businesses.

U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that New Mexico Community Capital was awarded a grant worth more than \$400,000 from the Commerce Department.

The Democrat says the investment will lead to innovation and job creation as tribal communities recover from the recession.

The money will be used to provide technical assistance in creating sustainable businesses. The initiative aims to reduce the skills gap for tribal employees and capitalize on renewable energy and agriculture.

Ottawa Tribe reaches tobacco deal with OK

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – A seventh Oklahoma tribe has reached an agreement with state officials for a new tobacco compact.

Ottawa Chief Ethel Cook and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed the new 10-year tobacco compact Sept. 12 after working through a 90-day extension period. The Ottawas’ previous agreement ended in June.

Starting Oct. 1, the tribe will charge the full \$1.03 state excise tax rate on all tobacco purchases at its Otter Stop Convenience Store in Miami, Okla., compared to the \$0.575 per pack tax that was assessed under the expiring compact.

From Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015, the Ottawa Tribe will receive 94 percent of the tax revenue from tobacco products sold in its convenience store, with the state receiving the remaining 6 percent. The tribe’s share decreases to 92 percent on Jan 1, 2016 and drops annually on New Year’s

Day until the tribe and state receive equal portions starting on Jan. 1, 2023. The new compact will expire on Dec. 31, 2023.

The Ottawas are the second tribe to lose their border rate and the first among the tribes near the Missouri border to sign a new compact. Under the expiring agreements, lower excise tax rates were available for tribal smoke shops within 20 miles of Oklahoma’s borders with Arkansas, Kansas or Missouri, which have – or in Arkansas’ case, previously had – lower tobacco tax rates than non-tribal Oklahoma smoke shops.

According to the Missouri Department of Revenue, the excise tax on a pack of cigarettes purchased in Missouri is currently \$0.17. The Otter Stop Convenience Store is 19 miles west of the Missouri border.

Similar to other tobacco compacts this year, the Ottawa compact includes provisions requiring the tribe to forfeit all of its tobacco revenue to the state up front, then wait up to 30 days for a rebate check from the Oklahoma Tax Commission for

its share of the proceeds.

Tobacco agreements for all but a handful of Oklahoma’s federally recognized tribes expired on June 30, although many received an extension.

Among the tribes that are still working under a 90-day compact extension are the Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Comanche Nation, Osage Nation, Pawnee Nation, Ponca Nation, Quapaw Tribe, Seminole Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and the Tonkawa Tribe. Those amended compacts give tribes and the state of Oklahoma through Sept. 30 to reach a new agreement.

Tribes that already signed compacts this year include the Kaw Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Kickapoo Tribe, Otoe-Missouria Tribe and the Apache Tribe.

Eight of Oklahoma’s federally-recognized tribes do not have a tobacco compact with the state.

Gov. Fallin’s office did not respond to requests for comment.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

SEPTEMBER 26
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. The public is invited to the opening reception at 1:06 p.m. at Lawton's McMahon Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris Avenue. The exhibit will be on display through August 31, 2014. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

SEPTEMBER 27
Presentation by Lois Smoky with Heather Ahtone. Jacobson House Native Art Center, 609 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK. For more information: 405-366-1667.

SEPTEMBER 27-28
Standing Bear Powwow at Standing Bear Park, Ponca City. Free event. Friday 6pm-close, Saturday 1pm-close. Contact Tobie Bonvillain, 580-762-1514 or 580-762-3148.

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22nd Annual Comanche Nation

Fair. More information will be given as it is finalized. For more information: Tomah Yeahquo, 580-492-3384.

SEPTEMBER 28
Ride for the Vets Poker Run benefit for veterans served by the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee. For more information, please contact Voluntary Service at 918-577-3621, 3358 or 3622.

SEPTEMBER 28
Fall Gourd Dance, Norman First American UMC, 1950 Beaumont Dr., Norman, OK. 2:00 pm-8:00 pm. Supper at 5:30pm. Arts & Crafts vendors (no food vendors). Bring your own chairs and shelter. For more information: Mary Lou Drywater, 405-361-2393.

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 5
Coming Home: Sharing Our Stories. The 53rd Annual Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and 25th Annual Chickasaw Festival. Events and Festivities are scheduled throughout the week in Tishomingo, Ada, Emet, Kullihoma and Sulphur. For more information and a schedule of events: www.Chickasaw.net/annualmeeting

OCTOBER 4-5
Fort Sill Indian School Annual Reunion, Campus Gym, Lawton, 7 pm to 11 pm on Friday 10 am to 11 pm Saturday

Contact Phyllis Hunter 405.247.1558 (work)

OCTOBER 5
Indian Taco Sale at Haikey Chapel United Indian Church located at 8515 E 101st St., Tulsa. Tacos and a drink for \$ 7.00. They will be sold from 11 am till 3 pm on Sat. Info contact 918 815 7973 sancrandall@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 18-19
Euchee\Yuchi Heritage Festival, Creek County Fair Grounds (17806 W Highway 66) in Kellyville, OK. Demonstrations, Raffles & 50/50, Food Baskets, Stomp Dance and more. More info call Lucian Tiger 918-271-3611 or Kathy Holloway 918-695-0195

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OCTOBER 21-23
2013 Indian Education Summit, National Center for Employee Development (NCED) Conference Center & Hotel, 2801 East Hwy 9, Norman, OK. Join us to address a variety of culturally relevant educational issues and work to improve opportunities and outcomes for all Native American students. For more information: <http://aii.ou.edu/>

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OCTOBER 26
Bacone Fall Pow Wow 2013 Noon - 11 P.M. at Muskogee Civic Center, W. Okmulgee & 5th Street Muskogee. Contest Powwow, free admission. All Princesses, Drums, Singers and Dancers invited. Vendor Info: Asa Lewis 918-360-0057 or lewisa@bacone.edu PW Info: Connie Falleaf 918-687-3299 or falleafc@bacone.edu Like us on Facebook!

NOVEMBER 15
Cmdr. John B. Herrington (Chickasaw), the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space, to speak at Comanche Nation College, James Cox Auditorium, 1608 SW 9th St., Lawton, OK. 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. For more information: 580-591-0203 or 580-353-7075.

NOVEMBER 29-30
Choctaw Nation Powwow, Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant. Add some wow to your weekend! Embrace the sights, sounds and culture of the Native American People with arts and crafts, authentic food and a must-see dance competition. Whether you come to compete or to take it all in, it's sure to be a rewarding weekend. For more info visit www.choctawcasinos.com.

McAlister to join into OK Music Hall of Fame

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

You'll never see her slouch. Even at ease, Barbara McAlister sits erect, correct and as if she aced posture in finishing school. A dramatic mezzo-soprano spends a lifetime learning to master her craft, and that includes lessons on carriage to support the diaphragm muscle.

"Learning to sing properly is not easy, and anyone who graduates from college and thinks they can sing, give them a few more years," says McAlister. "... You have to build up the muscle power. You have to build up the vocal chords so that they're able to sustain hours of singing. Operas are not short."

The Muskogee native should know. She's performed in opera houses all over the world and packs a repertoire ranging from the infamous vixen of Bizet's "Carmen" to the Cherokee corn spirit Selu in "The Trail of Tears Drama" in Tahlequah.

Plus, she's met one the most powerful and famous diaphragm muscles of all – the one belonging to super tenor Placido Domingo.

"I ran right into him and bounced off, because these muscles are very strong," she says, gesturing at her core. "... And I looked up and said, 'You're Placido Domingo,' and he said, 'Oh, yes.'"

Yes, operas are not short. After four decades on stage, McAlister has earned the right to sit at the edge of her seat, back perfectly straight, even if it makes the people seated opposite aware of their own vertebral shortcomings.

Along with a handful of individuals, the Muskogee native will be inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. The 2013 induction ceremony will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the Mabee Center, 7777 S. Lewis Ave., in Tulsa. Along with McAlister, the inductees are Jimmy Webb, Mason Williams, Sandi Patty, Norma Jean, the late Bob Dunn and the Mabee Center. Neal Schon, founding member of the band Journey, is also a member of the 2013 class, but he was formally inducted in August. Roger Davis will be honored with the OMHF Governor's Award, while Muskogee's Swon Brothers (who will hold a concert after the ceremony) will be recognized with the Rising Star Award.

McAlister will sing at the ceremony, exhibiting those credentials that have taken her to Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center and the National Museum of the American Indian. By the way she talks about her hometown, however, you'd believe that Muskogee is her favorite place in the world.



Cherokee Nation citizen and mezzo-soprano singing sensation Barbara McAlister sits at piano. The internationally known opera star is to be inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame on Oct. 15 at the Mabee Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Seated in the parlor of friend Sue Gaston's historic 1905 home, McAlister remembers the places of her childhood. She and Gaston have known each other for a long time. McAlister's parents built the house next door to the Gastons, and the families became fast friends.

Her father, Lawrence S. McAlister, was a surgeon and doctor of several specialties born in Webbers Falls in 1905 to Lawrence C. McAlister, a salesman of Scottish lineage, and Susie Sevier, a young Cherokee and graduate of Tahlequah's Cherokee Female Seminary. He studied medicine in Omaha, Neb., where he met a pretty girl named Clara Edwards on a blind date. They married and nine months later, McAlister's eldest brother was born.

The couple moved to Muskogee, where they raised three children – Larry, John and Barbara – as the doctor established his career. McAlister remembers their first home in Muskogee, a two-story house on Fond du Lac Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Street). As a child, she listened to her father sing German Lieder (or art songs) such as "Death and the Maiden." He had vocal training from his student days and was a good singer. Her mother played piano and tried to get McAlister to play, too, but the child was more interested in vocal music.

Both fans of opera, her parents listened to classical recordings on the RCA Victor. The McAlisters frequently invited friends and neighbors to their home to listen, too, and to sing at the piano. These gatherings made an impression on the little Barabar, who rarely spoke and never sang in front of anyone. At the age of three she had a breakthrough – beneath the piano.

"I think I sat under the piano so as not to be noticed, then I wouldn't have to leave the room (at bedtime)," McAlister says. "And then one time, I remember, I discovered my voice and started screaming. I was sent to my room."

By the time she was 13, McAlister reached a crossroads. She wanted to sing just like her idol of the time, Patrice Munsel, the coloratura soprano famous as the youngest singer to star with the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City. She also discovered popular music on the radio and wanted to become a country singer playing guitar on horseback between opportunities to barrel race. Opera won, of course, and the quiet girl prepared for a life of singing with her first vocal teacher, a soprano in Muskogee's First Presbyterian Church choir named Jeanne Parker.

"I think I really did go up to her and say, 'I want to sing as beautifully as you do. How do you do it?'" McAlister says.

It was a bold move for her. "I was very shy growing up," McAlister says.

"Still is," Sue Gaston, seated nearby, interjects. "... By that I mean she won't say what all she really can do."

If McAlister has a "weakness," it's a missing zeal to promote herself, Gaston says.

Marketing generally isn't taught in university music programs.

McAlister first attended the University of Tulsa, but left after two years to finish her studies at Oklahoma City University. Semester breaks were taken up with summer stock gigs with regional musical theater and opera companies. After graduation, she moved around from New York to North Carolina (where she worked with TV and film actor Clu Gulager, another Muskogee

native) and back to Muskogee before heading to Los Angeles, where she met her master voice teacher Lee Sweetland. With Sweetland (and later with his son, Steve Sweetland), she made her greatest strides.

"One day this huge voice came out," she says. "It never left me from that time."

Sweetland's training and encouragement led McAlister to acceptance into the competitive Los Angeles Civic Light Opera Music Theatre Program. She also won the prestigious National Vocal Competition for Young Opera Singers in New York and Los Angeles sponsored by the Loren L. Zachary Society for the Performing Arts. The award led to work in Europe, including a 10-year stint in German repertory opera and roles with such outfits as Opéra de Monte Carlo (thanks to a letter to Prince Rainier of Monaco), the New Bulgarian Opera and the Florentine Opera Company.

McAlister has numerous roles to her resume, including the aforementioned Carmen, Amneris from "Aida," Azucena from "Il Trovatore," Ostrud from "Lohengrin" and Santuzza from "Cavalleria Rusticana" among her favorites. She has performed in operas and as a soloist with the Houston Symphony, Dusseldorf Symphony, Washington Opera, New York Grand Opera and Tulsa Opera.

Throughout her career, she always felt the support of her family, particularly her parents.

"They were wonderful, wonderful people. I was very blessed. People used to say, 'You really sacrificed to do what you're doing' ... Just recently it dawned on me that my parents sacrificed a lot, too. They really believed in me as a singer," she says.

In 2009, she returned to Muskogee. "This is where I grew up, so I wanted to come home," she says. "When I left New York as a singer, I didn't have any idea of what I would do when I got here."

But a dramatic mezzo-soprano can find work even in Oklahoma. McAlister is a fine arts instructor and performer for Cherokee Nation. She is also a performing artist registered with the Oklahoma Arts Council. Much of her time, however, is taken up with teaching and painting. McAlister offers free voice training to Cherokee Nation members. She currently has 15 pupils as such in addition to a few private students.

She began painting as a youth when she fell in love with the works of celebrated Muskogee-Seminole artist Jerome Tiger, his brother Johnny Tiger Jr. and their contemporaries. Today, she paints in the style that influenced her then.

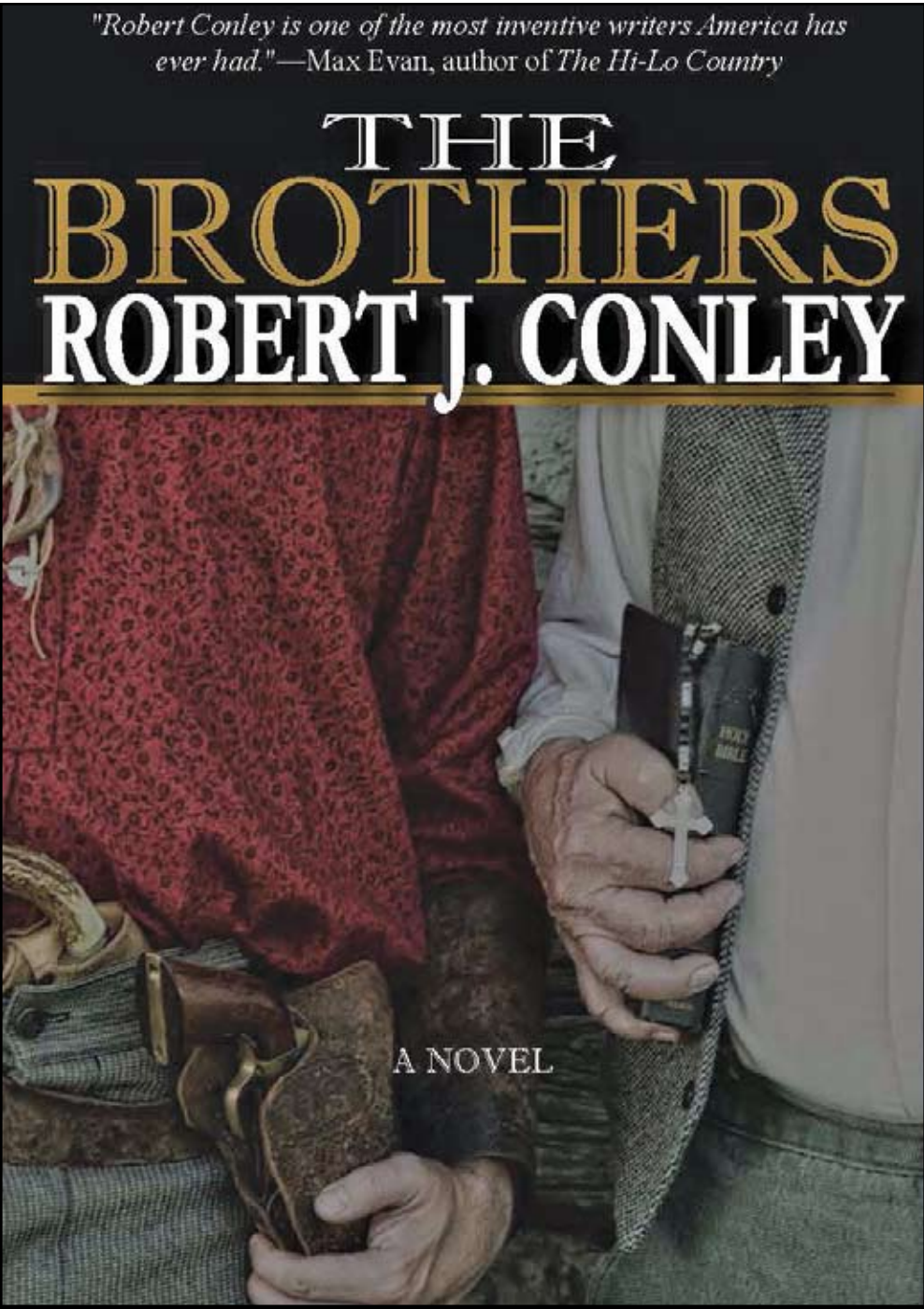
McAlister is also learning to speak and sing in Cherokee, which she did not hear growing up. Her grandmother, Susie Sevier, was in her mid-20s when she died.

"She spoke Cherokee, but because I never met her, I never really was introduced to Cherokee culture," McAlister says. "My dad was very proud that we were Cherokee, I know that. He always talked about it."

She may not live in a city renowned for opera culture, but McAlister is still living the artist's life. There is no secret to it.

"I never thought of it as a business," she says. "I just did it because I love doing it."

Tickets to the OMHF ceremony are \$10-\$175 each, available at www.mabeecenter.com. If you would like to contact McAlister about voice lessons, call 646-241-3299 or visit www.barbaramcalister.com.



NEW RELEASE BY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR ROBERT J. CONLEY

A three-time Spur Award winner, Robert J. Conley bases his new book on the classic Russian novel Brothers Karamazov. Half Cherokee and Civil War veteran Captain Skylar Garret returns to the home of Phillip Garret, his white father, seeking an inheritance that he believes to have belonged to his late mother. Intertwined now into the lives of his three half brothers – one a vocal atheist, one an aspiring minister, and the other a black slave boy who Phillip Garret doesn't claim – Skylar finds himself in more than a quarrel for money, but also in the middle of a love triangle with his own father, and ultimately on trial for patricide. Will Skylar Garret be the next hanging from Judge Parker's court?

THE BROTHERS | AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER AND EBOOK OCTOBER 13, 2013

Laskey confirmed to Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission by city officials

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Mayor Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr. has appointed Stacy Bates Laskey to the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission and the Tulsa City Council has confirmed her appointment. Mrs. Laskey chairs the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board.

"I am extremely excited about this appointment," said Laskey. "As an Osage citizen, I want to help my tribe and all Native people in any way I can. Over the past few years, the Osage Nation has made a concentrated effort to become more civically involved in the Tulsa community. I'm proud to be a part of that effort."

The primary mission of the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission is to advance American Indian culture and heritage, as well as to promote and protect American Indians. The Commission organizes the Dream Keeper Awards, celebrating Native American leaders in our communities who exemplify strong character and who have made a difference through solid dedication to public service. The Commission consists of eight individual members and 15 organizational members.

As Chair of the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board, Laskey oversees a five-member board tasked with oversight and strategic direction of the seven Osage Casinos. The board also serves as a meeting point between the Chief and Congress in regard to gaming.

"It has been my great honor to serve Osage



Stacy Bates Laskey

Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle, the Osage Nation Congress, and the Osage people as we work together to improve our gaming operations and provide for the future of the Osage Nation," said Laskey. "My family has always been active in the tribe. I regard this as my turn to continue my family's legacy of working for the betterment of the Osage people."

Mrs. Laskey is the granddaughter of the late Joseph (Big Jo) Bates who was an original allottee and native speaker, serving on the Greyhorse Committee. Mrs. Laskey's father, Joseph (Jo Jo) D. Bates served on the Osage Tribal Council and Greyhorse Committee. Mrs. Laskey graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Accounting.

Seeing the night sky as some American Indians do

ANN WESSEL
St. Cloud Times

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) – When Annette Lee dims the dome and brings up the stars in St. Cloud State University’s planetarium, she adds a new layer of understanding to the night sky as she describes astronomical phenomena, traces Greek and Roman constellations with a red light and then overlays images corresponding to Native American constellations.

The Big Dipper that is part of the constellation Ursa Major also forms the fisher, called Ojiig in Ojibwe. The dipper’s ladle forms the curve of the fisher’s tail.

Lee, assistant professor of astronomy and physics, explained to a room full of teachers attending a summer conference at St. Cloud State, that in Ojibwe culture the fisher is a clever, fierce and brave animal and a good fighter. It climbed a pine tree and jumped through a hole in the sky to bring back the birds and, therefore, the spring. Fishers are constantly on the move, sleeping for only a few hours before returning to the hunt. Like the fisher, the Big Dipper is constantly on the move in the sky.

On the Dakota star map, the Big Dipper contains the Blue Spirit Woman, who helps newborns pass from the star world to Earth and back again.

Through the Native Starwatchers Project, Lee has introduced audiences in Minnesota and throughout the U.S. to some Dakota and Ojibwe constellations and the stories they carry, the St. Cloud Times reported. Minnesota teachers are tuning in because state science standards require instructors to show how people from other cultures, including the state’s American Indian tribes, have contributed to science.

“I think it’s important for people to understand that although the mainstream science uses European and Greek (constellations), it’s important to know it comes from a certain culture,” Lee said later. “There are many ways of knowing, and that’s just one way.”

Her primary audience is Native American youth. Lee said learning about the constellations offers a source of pride amid a life that can be full of hardship.

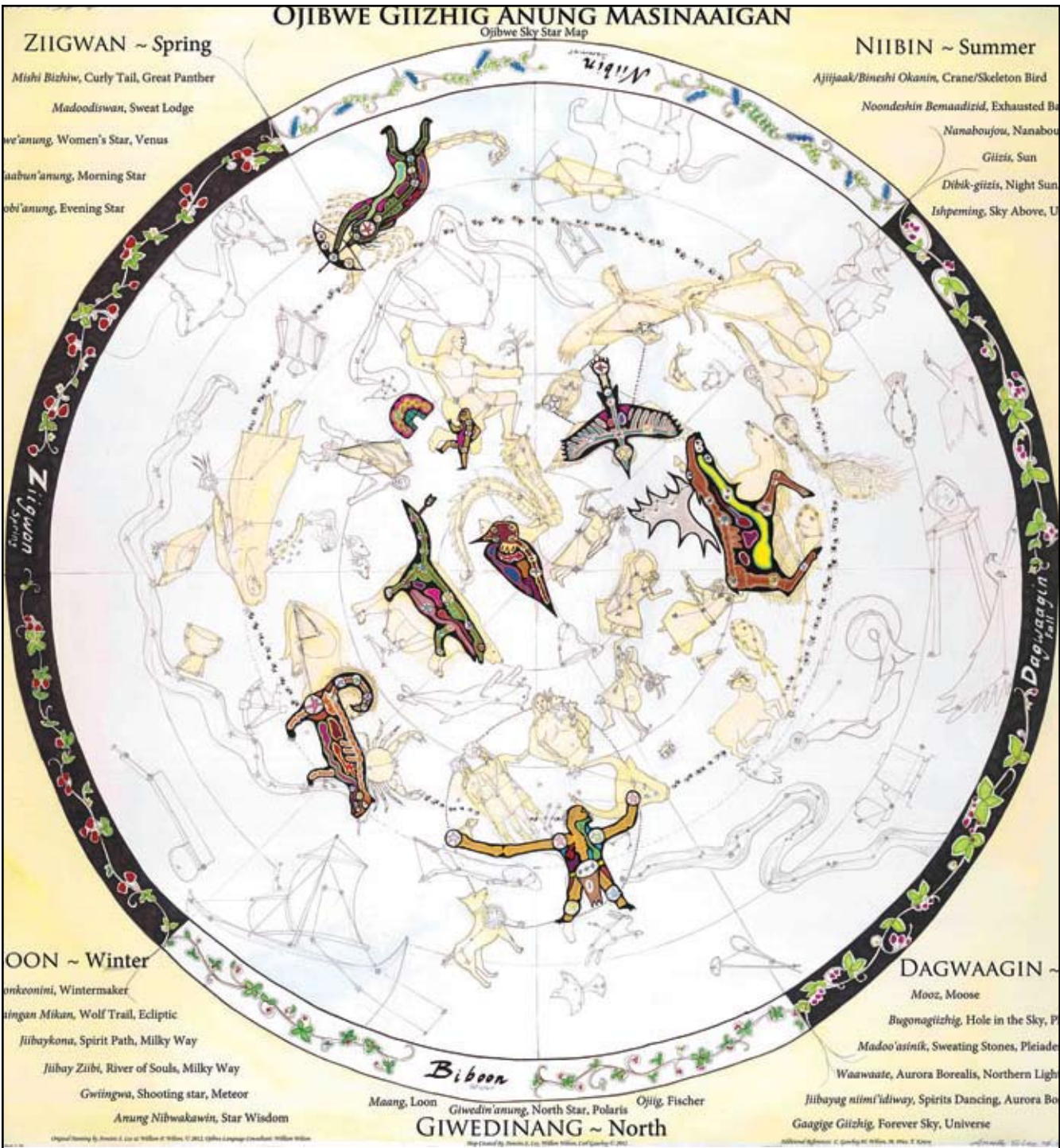
“It’s really giving them another connection and a connection to something that’s scientifically and culturally and spiritually based. It’s a message of hope,” Lee said.

Growing up in St. Louis, she found math provided a sort of solace and stability amid turbulence.

“It had structure,” Lee said.

She came to St. Cloud State University five years ago from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, where she found a person could be both astronomer and artist. Her current position also allows her to put to use her double major in art and astronomy from the University of California-Berkeley. She went on to earn master’s degrees in painting from Yale and in astrophysics from Washington University in St. Louis.

She collaborated on a project that resulted in Ojibwe and Dakota star maps, which were printed last year. Additional St. Cloud State grant funding will allow her to write two short books to augment the maps, providing more detailed



Through the Native Starwatchers Project, Annette Lee, an assistant professor of astronomy and physics, introduces audiences in Minnesota and throughout the United States to Dakota and Ojibwe constellations and the stories they carry.

constellation images and expanding upon some of the stories behind them. Grant funding dictates that those be complete by June.

“Ever since I can remember I’ve had a lot of dreams about stars and so I think it’s taken me 44 years to understand the meaning of that but it was really my guiding light,” Lee said.

Her grandfather was Dakota, and she attended traditional ceremonies with him. Learning the native constellations was

the next step. At that time, two books existed on the topic – one about Dakota stars, one about Ojibwe stars.

Lee said she hoped her efforts would give native people a better sense of their own history – a history that is being lost in a culture where stories were spoken, not written.

“Part of it’s recognizing all different cultures. We all have our connection to the stars, and that’s one of the few things in this day and age that connects us,” Lee said.

Kickapoo actress, Cherokee writer team up for VAWA-related play

■ Arigon Starr and Mary Kathryn Nagle present “Sliver of a Full Moon” to raise awareness of violence against Native women.

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

Kickapoo actress and playwright Arigon Starr is known for comic timing, her comic books and hilarious touch with a song.

“I don’t do a lot of political kind of stuff, usually,” she says from her Los Angeles office, hard at work on the next installment of her “Super Indian” comic series. “I’m political in my own way, but this is really, really quite different.”

“Sliver of a Full Moon,” the drama Starr will next appear in, is about the efforts of five Native Americans who pushed hard for the recent passage of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It’s not light, fluffy entertainment, yet “Sliver of a Full Moon” may be one of the more enlightening plays to hit a local stage because it focuses on certain facts. For instance, 39 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women will be subjected to violence by a spouse, boyfriend or intimate partner in their lifetimes, higher than for women of any other ethnicity in the U.S., according to a 2008 study by the Centers for Disease Control.

Just as troubling, among native women who were raped or sexually assaulted between 1992-2005, about 67 percent of victims described their offenders as non-native.

The reauthorization of VAWA was important to all women as it expanded its provisions to include protections for more than just Native Americans, but in Indian Country its impact was felt all the way back to Columbus’ arrival.

“I think this entire country mostly is pretty ignorant when it comes to Indian law,” said the play’s author, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Cherokee. “All you have to do is listen to a Supreme Court argument and listen to the questions the justices are asking. You can figure out pretty quickly that a lot of them don’t have a lot of knowledge for the legal existence of sovereign Indian tribes before 1492 and even how those tribes interacted in that sovereign-to-sovereign relationship with the U.S. after 1492.”

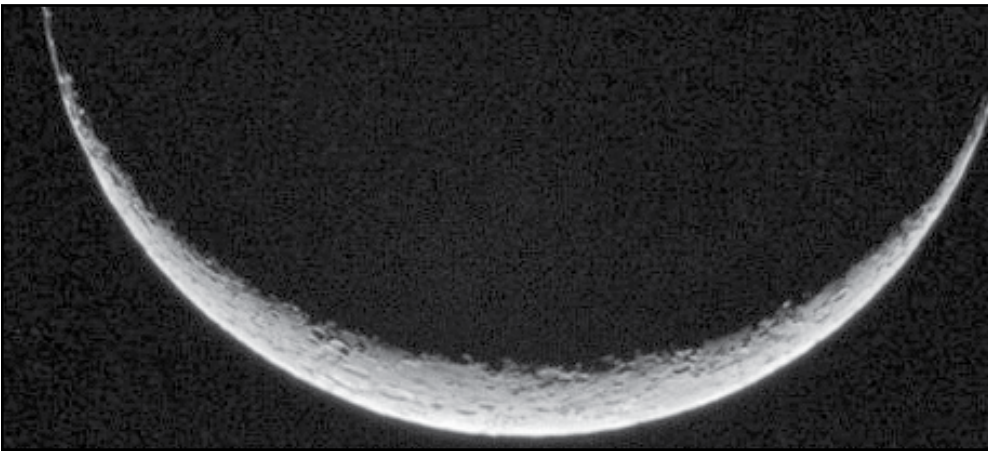
“Sliver of a Full Moon” looks at tribal authority in the context of VAWA at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, 111 E. First



Arigon Starr



Mary Kathryn Nagle



Artwork for the p lay “Sliver of a Full Moon.”

St., Tulsa. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with an opening reception followed by a lantern ceremony at 7 p.m. The play starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, available at www.myticketoffice.com.

Directed by playwright Carolyn Dunn (Muscogee, Cherokee), the play will be presented during the 70th National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, which takes place Oct. 13-18 at the Hard Rock Tulsa Hotel & Casino, as tribal government and leaders gather to examine issues pressing to native people.

VAWA is one of the first topics for discussion.

The act was first signed into legislation by President Bill Clinton in September 1994. It has been reauthorized three times, most recently in March when it was signed by President Barack Obama. The most recent measure added protections for women in

same-sex relationships and undocumented immigrants. It also allows tribal courts to prosecute non-natives accused of rape and domestic violence against Native American women, loosening the grip of a 1978 U.S. Supreme Court decision barring tribal courts from trying non-natives for criminal offenses committed against native citizens on native lands.

Passage set a new marker for tribal sovereignty, but it almost didn’t happen. The measure had opposition in the U.S. House that did not want to add these provisions. It wasn’t until February that the act was reconciled between both houses of Congress with the new provisions intact. The VAWA goes into effect on March 7, 2015.

“Sliver of a Full Moon,” which premiered in June during the Women Are Sacred Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., breaks down the months of lobbying and piles of legal

precedence that it took to reach passage.

“That stuff’s pretty dry, and to craft a drama around that really does take a lot of skill, and I think that’s something you’re going to see on stage ... I definitely applaud her skill,” Starr said.

Nagle, an attorney and playwright in New York City and honorary member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, said many people were involved in the effort, but her play focuses on the stories of five native women and two native men on the frontlines. Blending monologues with scenes, the play’s structure is similar to Moises Kaufman’s “The Laramie Project” and Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” – both plays commenting on social issues and directly addressing the audience to the max.

Nagle, who has six full-length plays to her credit, has written several works at the juncture of Native American sovereignty and U.S. law.

“What makes the play compelling is what made the movement compelling, and it’s these women’s stories,” Nagle said. “No one really understood why this act is necessary until they heard Diane Millich’s story, until they heard Deb Parker’s story, ‘til they hear Lisa Brunner’s story.”

Milich (Southern Ute), Lisa Brunner (White Earth Ojibwe) and Billie Jo Rich (Eastern Band of Cherokee) play themselves in “Sliver of a Full Moon” and share their experiences and fight for justice. Oklahoma native actors Kimberly Guerrero (Cherokee), Darryl Tonemah (Kiowa, Comanche, Tuscarora), Lily Gladstone (Blackfeet, Nez Perce) and Starr complete the cast. Tonemah portrays U.S. Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma. Gladstone, who has just completed filming the feature “Winter in the Blood” with Chaske Spencer (“Twilight”), portrays Deborah Parker, vice chair of the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors in Washington. Guerro (“The Cherokee Word for Water” and the Broadway run of “August: Osage County”) portrays Terri Henry, Eastern Band of Cherokee councilwoman.

Starr, who plays several roles, said Nagle has made the trials of VAWA understandable.

“It (the act) helped solidify sovereignty,” Starr says. “That’s one of the things that’s always going to be important to me.”

Although she began writing the play when the act’s future was in doubt, Nagle says it was necessary to show the public why the legislation is significant to Indian communities on an individual and tribal level. It still is. “For every woman that stands and shares her story,” she says, “there are hundreds of others.”

Inside this issue:

- Cherokee clinics offering flu shots
- Pennsylvania town appeals to keep Thorpe
- How to avoid 10 job seeker's mistakes



NATIVE TIMES

Capobiancos take Veronica



Melanie and Matt Capobianco pose for a photo with Veronica at an undisclosed location Monday, Sept. 23, 2013.

COURTESY

Officials call handover ‘peaceful’

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Despite losing custody of his daughter Sept. 23, a heartbroken Dusten Brown is not giving up hope.

“Veronica is my child, my flesh and blood, and I love her more than life itself,” Dusten Brown said Sept. 26 in a statement. “And to our daughter, Veronica – Mommy and Daddy love you and miss you so much, and we cannot wait until we see you again. We will see you again.”

Matt and Melanie Capobianco, the James

Island, S.C., couple who had been attempting to adopt the child since birth, assumed custody of four-year-old Veronica last Monday at the Cherokee Nation complex after the Oklahoma Supreme Court dissolved an emergency stay that allowed the girl to stay with her biological family while the adoption appeals process played out.

Just hours after issuing a statement refusing to honor the dissolved stay until heard by a Cherokee Nation court, Todd Hembree, the tribe’s attorney general, made the handover

See **CAPOBIANCOS** on Page 4



Okla. Gov. Mary Fallin

Fallin: Drop charge against Dusten Brown

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin is trying to persuade South Carolina to drop a charge and extradition order against a Cherokee father who disputed his daughter’s adoption, after he handed the girl over to her adoptive parents this week.

Dusten Brown was charged with custodial interference in August after he failed to show up to a family court meeting with his 4-year-old daughter Veronica in South Carolina, where her adoptive parents live. Fallin signed the extradition warrant earlier this month, saying Brown, of Nowata, Okla., was acting in “bad faith” for failing to hand over the girl.

See **CHARGES** on Page 4

Experts weigh in on Veronica’s transition to S.C.

MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – For the first two years of her life, Veronica lived in South Carolina with her two adoptive parents. For the next two, she was in the custody of her Native American father in Oklahoma.

Now, at 4, the young Cherokee girl is heading to a permanent home following the resolution of a years-long custody dispute involving questions of jurisdiction and tribal

sovereignty in both Native American and U.S. courts.

Late last Monday, the Oklahoma Supreme Court declined to uphold a stay keeping Veronica with her father, Dusten Brown, and ordered that custody be turned over to the adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco, of Charleston.

When the Capobiancos complete the long drive from Oklahoma to South Carolina, their topmost priority should be creating the stable life that Veronica has lacked in her

See **TRANSITION** on Page 4



Veronica Brown shares a moment with her father, Dusten, at their family home.

COURTESY

Tobacco compacts expire

■ A few tribes, including the Cherokee Nation and Citizen Potawatomi Nation, are still in active negotiations with state officials.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – Tobacco compact extensions for more than 20 tribes expire this week

and at press time, many still do not have a new agreement in place with the state of Oklahoma.

Despite a written request earlier this year from 22 tribes to extend current tobacco compacts through August 2017, Gov. Mary Fallin’s office refused to renew any existing compacts, forcing most of Oklahoma’s 38 federally recognized tribes to negotiate new rates.

On Sept. 25, compacts with the Miami, Wyandotte and Quapaw tribes were all filed with the Oklahoma Secretary

See **COMPACTS** on Page 2



FILE
Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and Kaw Nation Chairman Guy Munroe sign the tribe’s renewed tobacco compact March 11.

Cherokee Art Market to feature 150 elite artists



COURTESY CHEROKEE NATION TOURISM
“Looking Forward, Looking Back-Mirror Bag,” Beadwork/Quillwork, by Orlando Dugi and Kenneth Williams, was selected Best of Show at the seventh annual Cherokee Art Market.

■ Event to be held Oct. 12-13 at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa

TIM LANDES
Cherokee Nation Tourism

TULSA, Okla. – The eighth annual Cherokee Art Market will feature 150 inspirational and elite Native American artists from across the nation Oct. 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Sequoyah Convention Center at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa.

Admission is \$5 per person.

The finest Native American artwork, representing more than 45 different tribes, will be displayed and sold at the Cherokee Art Market and includes beadwork, pottery, painting, basketry, sculptures and textiles. Guests can also enjoy a variety of cultural and art demonstrations.

“The Cherokee Art Market is one of the premier American Indian art shows in the United States,” said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. “Our annual market continues to grow year after year, and that is a direct testament to the Cherokee Nation’s ability to showcase these celebrated artistic talents in a world-class event.”

As part of the two-day event,

See **ART MARKET** on Page 2

C&A gov. wants jail time for competing candidate

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Charges were filed in tribal court Sept. 24 against former Cheyenne and Arapaho governor Darrell Flyingman. According to court documents, Flyingman allegedly threatened a process server with a rifle near his home on Sept. 17. Flyingman is facing one count each of first degree assault and an aggravated weapons offense. If convicted, each count carries a maximum penalty of \$5,000 and up to one year in jail. Charles Morris, the attorney general for Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration, is requesting jail time for Flyingman. A current gubernatorial candidate, Flyingman and his running mate, Adrianna Harris, were the only pair to file with both of the tribes’ claimant election commissions, but have since been removed from the

candidate list distributed by the commission affiliated with Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration. Flyingman could not be reached for comment on the accusation. Earlier in the week, he provided a written statement to the Native Times in response to allegations that he was attempting a coup by running unopposed for governor with the election commission recognized by the Leslie Wandrie-Harjo administration. “For more than five years, Boswell and her group have been making false allegations of Flyingman stealing and misusing millions of dollars for his own personal use,” he wrote. “Why has she not filed charges against him before the election? Since the election, she and her attorney general Charles Morris have filed four criminal charges against him to keep him off the ballot.” The tribes’ primary election is scheduled for Oct. 8.

Quapaw Tribe seeks to expand casino into Kansas

COLUMBUS, Kan. (AP) – An Oklahoma tribe is asking Kansas for permission to expand its casino operation at Downstream Casino Resort into the state. The Joplin Globe reports a consultant for the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the casino has contacted the Cherokee County, Kan., Commission and city governments in Baxter Springs and Galena, Kan., about the proposal. It would also need support from the Riverton School District.

The casino wants to have Class 3 gaming, which consists of dice games and roulette, with the Kansas expansion because Oklahoma law prohibits it in casinos there except in electronic form. The plan would expand the casino north into nearly 124 acres in Kansas that currently serve as the casino’s parking lot. Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt is opposing the effort.



Karen Johnson, of Fort Gibson, receives her flu vaccine from W.W. Hastings Hospital Registered Nurse Tricia Taylor.

COURTESY CHEROKEE NATION COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE



Cherokee Nation Health Centers now holding flu vaccine clinics

JULIE HUBBARD
Cherokee Nation Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. –Since last flu season had the highest recorded outbreaks in three seasons among the Native American community, including the Cherokee Nation, organizers at all Cherokee Nation Health Centers are ramping up their efforts to combat it by providing multiple flu vaccinations around the 14-county area. “We hope to promote awareness of getting the vaccine and how important it is to your health,” said Jennifer Tredway-Belden, Cherokee Nation’s infection preventionist. “We hope that this year’s influenza rates will be less, and our employees and patient immunization rates will increase.” W.W. Hastings Hospital is offering free flu and pneumococcal vaccines to patients with a Cherokee Nation chart now through Oct. 11. Check in at the flu registration window on the main

floor from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary. The Amo Health Center in Salina is even offering a drive-thru flu clinic on Friday. Three Rivers Health Center in Muskogee and Sam Hider in Jay are hosting free flu clinics for not only its patients, but also the non-Native public. The flu season typically runs September to March, but each year peaks during different months. Last season it peaked around December, with 119 patients at Hastings testing positive and 399 in January. More than 17,500 patients had a flu vaccine from Cherokee Nation Health Services last flu season. For general vaccine information, contact Tredway-Belden at 918-458-3389 or jennifer-tredway@cherokee.org. For information on dates and times, contact the clinics directly:

Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center (Stilwell)
For more information, call the Public Health Clerk at 918-696-8826.
Vinita Health Center call Sheryl Young at 918-256-4834.
Sam Hider Health Center (Jay) call Vicki Madha at 918-253-1757.
Amo Health Center (Salina) call Susan Johnson at 918-434-8513.
Will Rogers (Nowata) and Bartlesville Health Centers
For more information, call Rebecca Kidwell at 918-273-7523.
Three River Health Center (Muskogee)
For more information, call Carissa McMurtrey at 918-781-6524.
Redbird Smith Health Center (Sallisaw)
For more information, call Chris Thompson at 918-774-1441.




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2417 East 53rd, Suite B, Tulsa, OK 74105

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OHAI is a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and is supported by a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

DISPONEMOS DE LAS MEJORES TASAS DE INTERES PARA PRÉSTAMOS



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Pennsylvania town appeals to keep body of athlete Jim Thorpe

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

JIM THORPE, Pa. – The Pennsylvania town where famed athlete Jim Thorpe was laid to rest six decades ago asked a

A federal district judge erred when he ruled the town of Jim Thorpe amounts to a museum under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the town's lawyers wrote in an appeal seeking to block the

died without a will in 1953 at age 64. After Oklahoma's governor balked at the cost of a planned monument to the athlete, third wife Patricia had Thorpe's body removed in the midst of his funeral service and sent it to northeastern Pennsylvania, where she struck a deal with two merging towns – Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk – to build a memorial and name the new town after him. His remains are kept in a mausoleum surrounded by statues and interpretive signage.

Thorpe's surviving sons have been fighting to move the body to Sac and Fox land in the state where he was born. In April, U.S. District Judge Richard Caputo ruled in favor of Bill Thorpe, his brother Richard, and the Sac and Fox.

Lawyers for the town – a tourism hotspot in the Pocono Mountains – argued that Caputo misapplied a law that Congress intended to address the theft of American Indian remains from gravesites long ago.

“The intent of Congress was to return human remains of archaeological interest ... not to disturb modern-day burial sites” of 20th-century American Indians like Thorpe, the appeal said.

Stephen Ward, a lawyer for Thorpe's sons, said the law isn't as narrow as the town makes it out to be.

“This is broadly written civil rights legislation ... adopted to address a number of problems, the overriding one being the lack of respect for Indian peoples' right to bury their own according to their desire,” he said Monday, after the town's appeal was filed with the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appeal also said Caputo's ruling trampled on a valid contract between the town and Patricia Thorpe's estate and served to “negate this private family decision” about where he was to be buried.

“Here, a surviving spouse buried her husband in the manner she chose, as any other surviving widow would and should be able to do,” the appeal said.

Thorpe's grandsons have sided with the town that bears his name and are expected to file legal arguments in the case soon.



COURTESY PHOTO
Jim Thorpe was a football, baseball and track star who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics, then later starred as the Indian in B-movies and struggled financially toward the end of his life. He died without a will in 1953 at age 64.

federal appeals court Monday to throw out a ruling that could clear the way for his remains to be moved to American Indian land in Oklahoma.

removal of the athlete's body. Thorpe was a football, baseball and track star who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics. He

Osage Casinos to add 200 jobs in state

PONCA CITY, Okla. (AP) – Osage Casinos says it will hire more than 200 people next month as it expands its casinos in Skiatook and Ponca City.

A job fair is set for Oct. 5 in Skiatook and with another in Ponca City on Oct. 11. Osage Nation operates seven casinos in Oklahoma and is adding full-service hotel facilities in the two cities.

Osage Casinos spokesman Chris Barton tells the Tulsa World most of the jobs will be on the hotel and restaurant side.

The Ponca City expansion is set to open Dec. 23. It adds a 48-room hotel and expands the existing building from 6,000 square feet to nearly 90,000 square feet.

The Skiatook expansion will add a 33-room hotel with a restaurant, swimming pool and convention space.

Muskogee VA offering sports program for disabled veterans

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – The Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center (JCMVAMC) has developed a new Adaptive Sports Program for Veterans with physical and visual disabilities to give them the opportunity to become involved in adaptive sports, outdoor recreation, fitness programs and leisure activity.

Through this program, Veterans will be able to re-establish an independent and active lifestyle in their communities and become mentors for other Veterans and service members.

On Oct. 1 and Oct. 31, the hospital will host an Adaptive Sports Clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. in the hospital auditorium, which will give Veterans the opportunity to play table tennis, bocce ball and sitting volleyball with

staff members and other Veterans.

As part of the Adaptive Sports Program, the hospital has also partnered with The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges in Tulsa, which offers a U.S. Paralympics sports club. Adaptive sport opportunities presently available to participants at the sports club include: wheelchair basketball, bocce ball, table tennis, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair curling, weight training and sitting volleyball. To learn more about VA adaptive sports and national VA-sponsored competitions, visit <http://www.va.gov/adaptivesports/>.

For more information about the JCMVAMC Adaptive Sports Program, please contact Meghan Collins at 918-577-3874.

COMPACTS

Continued from Page 1

of State's office, placing the number of Oklahoma tribes with current tobacco agreements at 11.

Starting Oct. 1, those three tribes will charge the full \$1.03 state excise tax rate on all tobacco purchases made in their smoke shops, compared to the \$0.575 per pack tax that was assessed under the expiring compact.

From Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015, the tribes will receive 94 percent of the tax revenue from tobacco products sold in its convenience store, with the state receiving the remaining 6 percent. The tribe's share decreases to 92 percent on Jan. 1, 2016 and drops annually on New Year's Day until the tribe and state receive equal portions starting on Jan. 1, 2023. The new compacts will expire on Dec. 31, 2023.

The rates in the Miami, Wyandotte and Quapaw tribes' compacts are comparable to the agreement reached the previous week between the state and the Ottawa Tribe. All four are among the six tribes that operate at least one compacted smoke shop within 20 miles of the Oklahoma-Missouri border. Under their previous compacts, in order to compete with Missouri's \$0.17 per pack excise tax, those six tribes were able to charge a lower excise tax rate. That provision does not exist in the new agreements.

Similar to the other compacts signed under the Fallin administration, the wholesalers used by the Miami, Wyandotte and Quapaw smoke shops

will collect the compact taxes assessed by the tribal retail outlets and turn that money in to the state's tax commission. The tribes will receive a monthly check from the state for their portion of the proceeds within 30 days.

Despite the three new agreements kicking in, several tribes' compacts are still in limbo.

A few tribes, including the Cherokee Nation and Citizen Potawatomi Nation, are still in active negotiations with state officials. Officials with the Tahlequah based tribe confirmed that they are temporarily extending their current compact a second time, this time through Oct. 31 as talks continue.

“We're close,” Cherokee Nation attorney general Todd Hembree said. “We're very close.”

To date, Cherokee Nation smoke shops have generated an average of \$300,000 in revenue per month this year. Under its expiring compact, five of its smoke shops near Oklahoma's borders with Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri qualified for a reduced excise tax rate.

On Friday afternoon, published reports indicated that Gov. Fallin's office was not willing to accept compact proposals from the Osage Nation. Headquartered in Pawhuska, the Osage Nation sold more than 3.5 million packs of cigarettes in 2011 at its 14 northern Oklahoma smoke shops.

Gov. Fallin's office did not respond to requests for comment.

ART MARKET

Continued from Page 1

there will be public demonstrations from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Demonstrations include jewelry stamp work technique, katsina doll making, pottery, painting and wooden flutes.

An awards reception will be held in The Sky Room on Friday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. in honor of the Cherokee Art Market prizewinners, with \$75,000 in overall prize money awarded across 20 categories. The public is welcome to attend the awards reception for \$25 per person. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

“Best of Show” for the seventh annual Cherokee Art Market went to Orlando Dugi and Kenneth Williams for their “Looking Forward, Looking Back-Mirror Bag” Beadwork and Quillwork entry.

For more information about the Cherokee Art Market, visit www.cherokeeartmarket.com.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa is located off Interstate 44 at exit 240. For more information, visit www.hardrockcasinotulsa.com or call (800) 760-6700.

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CHARGES

Continued from Page 1

Brown had been in a custody dispute with Veronica's adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco of South Carolina, for years. But on Monday, Brown handed Veronica over to the Capobiancos, and Fallin's spokesman said this should draw the legal action against Brown to a close.

"Governor Fallin's hope is that Dusten Brown will not have to go to South Carolina," spokesman Alex Weintz wrote Wednesday in an email to The Associated Press.

Brown is due in court in Oklahoma next week to address the extradition order.

A spokesman for South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Haley is working closely with officials in both states "to find a solution that is in the best interests of both states, and most importantly, baby Veronica and the Capobiancos."

Shannon Jones, a lawyer for Brown in South Carolina, said as long as there is an outstanding charge for Brown, he can't travel to South Carolina to see his daughter.

"If you cross the state line and you have an outstanding warrant for your arrest, there's no way he could participate in her life," she said.

Veronica's birth mother was pregnant when she put the girl up for adoption, and the Capobiancos had been lined up to receive custody since 2009. But Brown, a member of the Cherokee Nation, and his family claimed the Indian Child Welfare Act mandated that the child be raised within the Cherokee Nation, and he won custody when the girl was 2.

The Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in 1978 with the intent of reducing the high rates of Native American children being adopted by non-Native American families. A South Carolina court cited the law when awarding Veronica to Brown in 2011, but the U.S. Supreme Court said this summer that the law did not apply in Brown's case because he had been absent from the child's life.

A South Carolina family court judge then ruled in July that custody be awarded to the Capobiancos and ordered Brown to hand Veronica over. Brown refused, and South Carolina authorities charged him with custodial

interference after he failed to show up to a court-ordered meeting.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court had issued an emergency stay keeping Veronica with Brown and his family in Oklahoma while he appealed through Oklahoma courts, but the court lifted the stay on Monday. Brown then handed the girl over to the Capobiancos.

Cherokee Nation Chief Bill John Baker said Wednesday the tribe did everything in its power to keep Veronica with Brown.

"We used every legal avenue at our disposal to keep this family together. But the Cherokee Nation is also a nation with a longstanding history of obeying the rule of law, so that is what we did on Monday," he said in a statement.

Baker said he hopes over time Veronica realizes how significant it is to be a Cherokee citizen and said she would always be welcome back to the Cherokee Nation.

"Whether we see you sooner or later, we know we will see you again," Baker added.

Associated Press writer Bruce Smith in Charleston, S.C., contributed to this report.

CAPOBIANCOS

Continued from Page 1

announcement to the dozens of supporters who had flocked to the tribe's property in a show of solidarity for Brown. Cherokee Nation spokeswoman Amanda Clinton confirmed the announcement via social media about an hour after the custody transfer. Despite eyewitness reports that Veronica loudly protested the move, Cherokee Nation representatives described the handover as uneventful.

"It is with a heavy heart that I can confirm Veronica Brown was peacefully handed over to Matt and Melanie Capobianco (this) evening," Clinton tweeted. "Updates will be forthcoming, but the transition was handled peacefully and with dignity by all parties. Please keep Veronica in your prayers."

Attorneys for Brown and the Cherokee Nation have not said whether they will continue appealing the adoption. The Capobiancos have publicly said they want Brown to remain in his daughter's life but have not elaborated on just how often the he will get to see the girl.

Brown and the Cherokee Nation are also facing potential fines in South Carolina through contempt of court proceedings. Sealed family court proceedings began Wednesday in Charleston, S.C., to potentially extract the Capobiancos' legal fees and living expenses associated with their seven-week stay in Oklahoma in their effort to regain custody of Veronica.

As the news of the custody transfer and additional potential legal actions circulated across Indian Country, Friday morning rallies in support of the Brown family popped up around the country. More than 30 protestors, many clad in Veronica's favorite color pink, waved signs in front of the State of Oklahoma's government offices in Tulsa where the attempted negotiations took place a week before.

"We all need to stand up," event organizer JoKay Dowell said. "This is all of our fight. A biological father who fought for his country is now being made to give up his daughter by that same country. I can't even begin to wrap my mind around that.

"While Dusten's father went to the emergency room Monday night with a heart attack, the Capobiancos took Veronica and went on CNN. They've been nothing but media hogs since they arrived in Oklahoma, telling one lie after another. When does it end?"

In Tahlequah, supporter Christy Sequichie handed out flyers at the Cherokee Nation Courthouse and expressed her disappointment in the Supreme Court ruling that the Indian Child Welfare Act didn't apply to Brown's case.

"He should have the right to raise his child. If you have someone to raise your child, why would you go and sell your child? Indian Child Welfare should apply here. It doesn't matter how much 'Indian' you are. He (Brown) is a Cherokee Nation citizen. He is proven to be her father, so ICW should apply," she said.

Sequichie was at the Jack Brown house where the Browns were staying the night Dusten had to turn his daughter over to the federal marshals.

According to Sequichie, Chrissi Nimmo, the Assistant Attorney General for the tribe who had been handling the case, took Veronica's hand and led her to the SUV that was waiting to whisk her away.

"I don't want to go, I don't want to go," is the last thing Sequichie says she heard.

"Veronica deserves a hearing of her best interest and she never received that," Sequichie states in the flyer she is circulating to inform the public of Dusten Brown's side of the story. "He told her he loved her and always would."

Brown's father and Veronica's paternal grandfather, Tommy Brown, left the Cherokee Nation complex Monday night in an ambulance due to chest pains. No public updates have been made about his condition.

TRANSITION

Continued from Page 1

first four years of life, experts say.

"The saga she's been through really seems to be this tragic tale of law and adults who talk about the best interest of the child but don't seem to be doing what's in the best interest of the child," said Dr. Naranjan Karnik, a specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry at Chicago's Rush University. "Kids always know when there's uncertainty in the air. To not know where your home is going to be is the most unsettling thing."

Dr. Philip Fisher, a psychologist specializing in childhood trauma at the University of Oregon, agrees.

Fisher notes that children who have been in unsettled home environments, such as shuttling between different houses or families, can suffer. At 4 years old, traumatic changes can actually hamper development in the part of the brain that helps someone make good decisions, Fisher said.

Veronica was born Sept. 15, 2009, to an unwed, non-Native American mother in Oklahoma who decided to give her up for adoption and chose the Capobiancos in South Carolina as her adoptive parents.

But Brown also had petitioned for custody shortly after her birth, and in December 2011, after Veronica had lived with the Capobiancos for a little more than two years, the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled in the father's favor. The court said that under the Indian Child Welfare Act, it was in the little girl's best interest to be raised by her biological father because of his Native American heritage.

Consequently, Veronica went to live with Brown in Oklahoma.

Two more years passed, and this past summer, the tables turned again: The U.S. Supreme Court – responding to a challenge from the Capobiancos to the South Carolina court's decision – ruled that the Indian Child Welfare Act did not apply in this case because Brown had been absent from the child's life. The South Carolina courts finalized the couple's adoption and ordered Brown to hand Veronica over. Two Oklahoma courts certified the order.

But Brown wasn't done. He was still hoping that the Oklahoma Supreme Court would refuse to lift a stay that was in place to keep Veronica with him. The court declined the request, and Veronica was transferred Monday night to the Capobiancos.

Justice Noma Gurich dissented. "We cannot ignore the fact that (Veronica), at the age of 27 months, has already been moved from one set of 'parents' to another, after lengthy judicial consideration of her best interests," Gurich wrote. "Under the issues present to this court, an immediate change of custody without any consideration of her best interests will require a four-year-old child to resolve her feelings of loss and grief for a second time."

The Cherokee Nation fought on Brown's behalf for permanent custody, but late Monday, the tribe's attorney general, Todd Hembree, indicated the fight was over. In a statement, Hembree expressed hope that the Capobiancos would "honor their word" to allow Brown to be remain an important part of the girl's life.

"We also look forward to her visiting

the Cherokee Nation for many years to come, for she is always welcome," he added.

The Capobiancos have repeatedly said they wanted to honor Veronica's Cherokee heritage, and at one point, with the help of several adoption consultants and experts, they laid out a transition plan that included keeping Brown in Veronica's life.

But the most recent negotiations on a settlement for shared custody or visitations broke down Monday, a few hours before the Oklahoma court ruled. Details of the proposed compromise were not publicly released.

In the short term, perhaps the most important thing will be to reacquaint Veronica with the people who will raise her. Given her age when she left South Carolina, and the two years that have passed since, both Fisher and Karnik say it is unlikely she remembers much of her previous time with the Capobiancos.

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, the couple said they had been able to visit Veronica, which "allowed us to reconnect as a family and ease her transition home."

"We are all doing well and our focus now is on healing and getting our life back to normal," they said.

The Capobiancos also acknowledged the disappointment of Veronica's biological father and the Cherokee Nation.

"While we are overjoyed to bring Veronica home, we sympathize with the Brown family during this difficult time," they said. "Despite our differences, and everything that has happened over the last several months, we all love Veronica and want what is best for her."

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COMMENTARY

Letters:

A heavy heart for Dusten and Veronica Brown

September 24, 2013

It was a clear sky last night. You could see deep into the Creator's galaxies. But it rained on all Native and indigenous peoples hearts with a decision to take a child away from a loving family. A biological father's daughter was taken from his heart and home. It may have caused a heart attack for the Grandfather that led to a domino effect of all hearts breaking everywhere. Another stake driven in the native people by the all-powerful money infested court system. More proof that "all judges" decisions lead to an attorney's bank account."

I think of my current struggles and they seem quite nil to the pain that Dustin Brown and his family are feeling today. A man who may have to give his life to a country that does this to him. It may make him question serving such and country that would do this to a person. As well to serve a governor that has twisted a knife in his back, as well as all Native people of this state. There are thousands of children in our world needing a loving family. This self-righteous couple seeks to take a loved child for their own needs and prove that power (money) is in their hands. A horrible practice, that conquering people have done for generations. Why should it change now?

My heart is heavy as well as so many other feel at this time. There is always "just desserts" for people like this. I hope to believe. I hope also they can have all their desires met. So this child can live in happiness. There will come a day when they will have to explain what happened to this child. I wonder how they will do it and how they will feel when it is done. They can blame the courts. But it may not work this time. I wish them luck trying

to explain it. It will not be an easy task. I feel for Veronica Brown and I wish all the love she can stand in her days of life. My heart bitterly breaks for what has been done. It will break in the future for time when Matt and Melanie Capobianco have to tell Veronica what they did to her biological family. They proudly drove a stake in her biological families' hearts as well as all native people in the State of Oklahoma. Don't forget that Governor Mary Fallin held it for them while they drove it deeper.

*Robert D. Little
Member of the Cherokee
Nation and the Seneca-
Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
Tulsa, Okla.*

High honor given Oklahoma activist

An Oklahoma environmental activist, Casey Camp-Horinek of the Ponca Nation, was recently one of only 100 women representatives selected world-wide to attend the International Women's Earth and Climate Initiative (IWECI) in New York City. "We feel that your participation in this event would be necessary to determine game-changing, long term solutions to climate change and long term environmental degradation..." read Casey's invitation.

At the opening session on September 21st, Casey was asked to give the Morning Prayer and to end the Summit on September 23rd with the "Closing Water Ceremony. These were high honors indeed, as the list of representatives read like a who's who of "powerful indigenous, grassroots, and business women leaders" that included the United Nation's Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Vandana Shiva from India, Christiana Figueres, Nobel Laureate Jodi Williams, and Marina Silva - to name but a few of these truly accomplished and renowned figures who participated, Representing indigenous

people of Oklahoma, in 2005, Casey, myself and six other Oklahoma grass roots Natives attended the U.N. Conference on Climate Change in Montreal, Canada, where we were warned of the rapidly approaching "tipping point" of no return. Then, in 2009 at a failing climate conference in Copenhagen, President Obama drafted a face-saving "Copenhagen Accord" that, with no enforcement mechanism, fooled very few. The Accord did however, contain one very important number. It formally recognized the scientific view that the increase in global temperatures must be below 2 degrees Celsius (approx. 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). At that time a spokesman for small island nations warned that "Some countries will flat disappear."

Since we've increased the earth's temperature .8 C. degrees so far, we're less than half way to that point of no return but the most sophisticated simulation computer models say that even if we stopped increasing CO2 now, the temperature will still rise another 0.8 degrees as previously released carbon overheats the atmosphere. Scientists warn the opportunity to prevent the worst impacts of global warming will be lost forever unless the trajectory of a potential 4 degree C. rise in temperature is reversed. The official position on planet Earth is (or should be) that we can't raise the temperature more than 2 degrees Celsius. THAT IS THE MOST BOTTOM OF BOTTOM LINES.

"Climate change is threatening all life as we know it on our one and only home planet. Our children, our grandchildren and all future generations are in peril. The natural systems upon which all living things depend are in jeopardy," states the preamble to the IWECI Declaration, "Women of the World Call for Climate Action & Sustainable Solutions."

The IWECI gathering in New York addressed these imperative issues to marshal

efforts and involvement into a clear and defined movement.

Casey Camp-Horinek is also an award winning actress, recognized for her performance as the female lead in the full feature movie "Barking Water" which had pre-release screenings at numerous Oklahoma theaters several years ago.

*Dwain Camp, Ponca Elder
(and Casey's proud bro)
Ponca City, Okla.*

Status of Cherokee Housing

Recently, I have had a lot of questions about the Tribal Housing programs and especially the new construction program.

In October 2011 when the new Chief took office, the Tribal Council (including me) unanimously supported rebuilding the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation (HACN) into one single autonomous State entity separate from the Tribal government. The Chief advocated for this move, so the HACN would begin building homes as promised in the 2011 election.

The separation of the HACN from the Tribe and rebuilding means the budget and oversight of programs and policies is at a greater arms length from the Tribal Council.

HACN offers new Home Construction, Low Income Rental Housing, Housing Rehab, Senior Housing, Rental Assistance Program, Community Shield Insurance, College Housing Assistance Program and the innovative Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) begun under Chief Chad Smith.

As of June 2013, the HACN reports 36 homes have been built since October 2011 under the new construction program. The same report shows 1,546 families waiting for new homes including 133 in Rogers County, 93 in Tulsa County and 131 in Mayes County.

Priority for new construction homes is given to families with land which seems to be severely limiting for most families and implementation of the entire program. In Rogers, Tulsa and Mayes County, only Rogers County has one home under construction with no progress listed for Tulsa and Mayes Counties.

In the past few months, the Tribal Council (including me) unanimously voted to increase MAP to \$20,000 for down payment assistance for first-time home owners and an additional \$5,000 self-help match for future home repairs. MAP still includes home ownership training such as credit repair, building credit, budgeting and home maintenance knowledge and skills.

Section 184 Home Loans for American Indians are a Federal program administered by private banks and not HACN. Ask your bank if they offer 184 loans or go to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website for a list of local banks offering 184 loans.

To learn more about the HACN and their programs, go to housing.cherokee.org to download applications and learn how to qualify.

HACN Area 2 Office serving Craig, Nowata, Rogers, Tulsa and Washington Counties is located at 23205 S. Highway 66 in Claremore which is one mile South of Wal-Mart on Highway 66 and office number is (918) 342-2433.

To learn more about HUD laws, policies, budgets and guidelines, go to hud.gov. HUD monies are the primary source of revenue for HACN programs.

If you have questions, issues or concerns about the Cherokee Nation government, please email me at cara@caracowan.com or write me at P.O. Box 2922, Claremore, OK 74018.

*Cara Cowan Watts
Cherokee Nation Tribal
Council Representative for
portions of Rogers and Tulsa
Counties
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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

Mailing address is P.O. Box 411 Tahlequah, OK 74465. All the contents within the Native American Times are copyrighted material. Any reproduction, redistribution without the written consent of the NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES is strictly prohibited.

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Mistakes job seekers make and how to avoid them

Career coach Ford R. Myers highlights 10 little-known but deadly mistakes that can stop a job search dead in its tracks!

HAVERFORD, Pa. – Many people make significant job search mistakes and never even realize it. These blunders are easy to make ... and they can end up costing you thousands of dollars.

Ford R. Myers, Career Coach, Speaker and Author of “Get The Job You Want, Even When No One’s Hiring.” (John Wiley & Sons, <http://www.getthejobbook.com>) reveals these top 10 mistakes, and explains how to avoid them.

Mistake #1: Relying on Online Job Postings

In general, job postings and “want ads” produce little value. However, it is also a mistake to ignore them altogether. Some of the best chances for jobs from ads are in specialty trade publications and web sites of specific industries. Myers suggests spending no more than five percent of your valuable time on public job postings.

Mistake #2: Mailing Unsolicited Resumes

Unsolicited resumes are

considered garbage, scrap paper and wasted effort. Secretaries kill them, Human Resource Managers file them away, and hiring decision-makers pitch them. Myers advocates abandoning this job search tactic completely.

Mistake #3: Looking Only for Job Openings

Searching for companies with “openings” is an obsolete job hunting method. The best jobs are never “vacancies” or “openings.” Rather, more than 40% of positions are created for the applicant, often at the interview. The key is to shift your focus from “openings” to “opportunities” (which exist nearly everywhere).

Mistake #4: Ineffective Networking

Networking should be the primary focus of every job search. However, Myers finds that most people go about it the wrong way - by talking too much and asking for jobs. The best networkers are listeners rather than talkers, have a clear agenda, and are not shy about asking for feedback and guidance. Remember that networking is more about giving than it is about taking.

Mistake #5: Leaving Yourself Open to Many Kinds of Jobs

Focus on finding the RIGHT

job - not “just any job.” Critical factors to consider include scope of responsibilities, satisfaction, growth potential, location, cultural fit, great co-workers, a pleasing environment and competitive compensation. Commit to your job-search goal, and don’t try to be “all things to all people.”

Mistake #6: Being Unplanned in Your Search

Myers suggests the following tips to conduct a proper job search: a well thought-out methodology, daily solitude and planning, space in the home dedicated to the search, and a system for accountability. Most of all, be 100% clear about your job search objective - and follow a structured plan to achieve it.

Mistake #7: Doing it Alone

Career coaches are experts who provide objective guidance, help you “think outside the box,” and provide a proven system for job search success. Many offer excellent advice on salary negotiation - often exceeding the job seeker’s expectations. The job market is just too tough to think that you can achieve optimal results by yourself.

Mistake #8: Letting Others Control Your Job Search

Of course, it is best to conduct your own research and target

the right companies yourself. Remember: only you can “sell yourself” effectively and land a job. However, Myers suggests working with a small selection of professional recruiters - they can serve an important role in your search. But you’ll need to maintain control over the whole process.

Mistake #9: Not Preparing Well Enough for Job Interviews

When you boil it down, all job interviews are comprised of five basic elements: articulating your value, conveying your knowledge of the company, asking intelligent questions, negotiating compensation, and following-up. Each of these items has to be practiced in advance so you can “ace” the job interview. “Winging it” just won’t do!

Mistake #10: Not Knowing Your Market Value

You must research and assess your value in the marketplace before you attend a single interview. Never disclose your salary requirements - always get the employer to name the salary or range first. The time to talk money is when the employer has made it clear that you are their top candidate, and after they extend an offer.

“It is very easy for even the savviest of job seekers to make

these mistakes. By learning how to navigate these potential pitfalls from the outset, your job search will be more productive and yield more positive results,” adds Myers.

For more information and other useful tips for achieving career success, visit <http://www.getthejobbook.com>.

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Ford R. Myers is President of Career Potential, LLC. His firm helps clients take charge of their careers, create the work they love, and earn what they deserve! Ford has held senior consulting positions at three of the nation's largest career service firms. His articles and interviews have appeared in many national magazines and newspapers, and he has conducted presentations at numerous companies, associations and universities. In addition, Ford has been a frequent guest on television and radio programs across the country. He is author of Get The Job You Want, Even When No One's Hiring.

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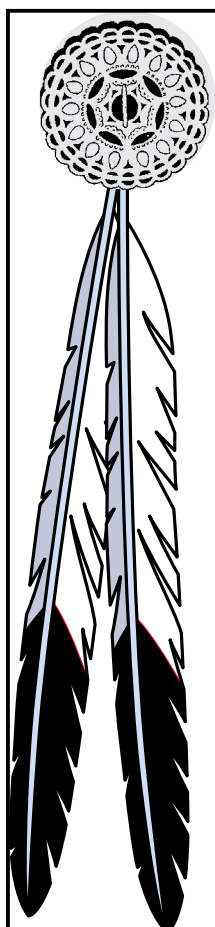
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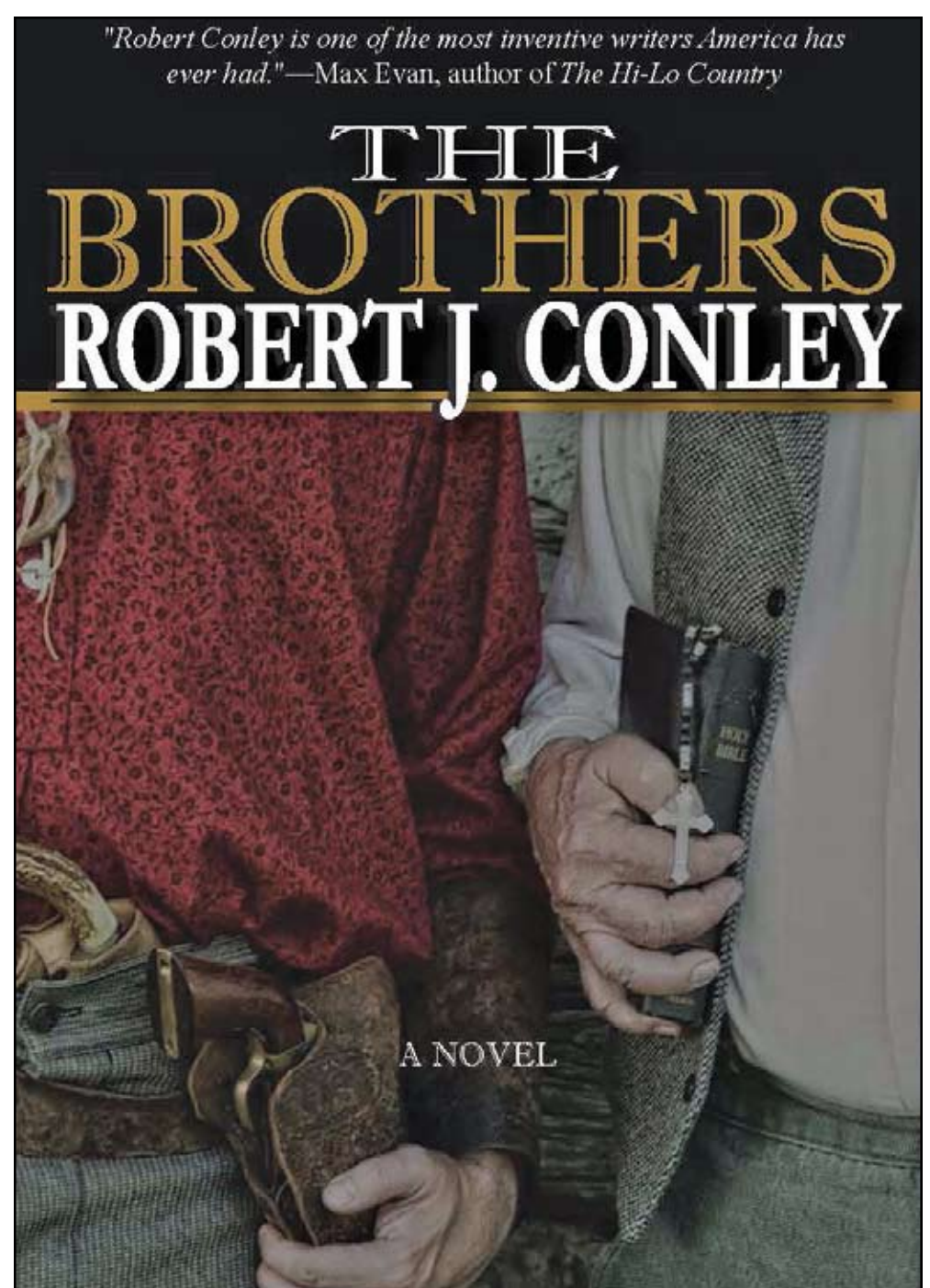
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THE BROTHERS | AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER AND EBOOK OCTOBER 13, 2013



EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY

The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales — from 4:00 — 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
 Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE — from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014

Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 5

Coming Home: Sharing Our Stories. The 53rd Annual Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and 25th Annual Chickasaw Festival. Events and Festivities are scheduled throughout the week in Tishomingo, Ada, Emet, Kullihoma and Sulphur. For more information and a schedule of events: www.Chickasaw.net/annualmeeting

OCTOBER 4-5

Fort Sill Indian School Annual Reunion, Campus Gym, Lawton, 7 pm to 11 pm on Friday 10 am to 11 pm Saturday Contact Phyllis Hunter 405.247.1558 (work)

OCTOBER 5

Indian Taco Sale at Haikey Chapel United Indian Church located at 8515 E 101st St., Tulsa. Tacos and a drink for \$ 7.00. They will be sold from 11 am till 3 pm on Sat. Info contact 918 815 7973 sancrandall@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 5

Tâkwâkiwi Nimiweni (Fall Dance) 2pm - 10pm at Jim Thorpe Memorial Park, Stroud. All singers & dancers invited. Gourd Dancing at 2pm and 6pm. Traditional dancing 7pm-10pm. Info contacts ROBERT WILLIAMSON 918-290-0554 or RUSSELL SAUNDERS, SR. 405-395-7765

OCTOBER 12-13

Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremonial, Indian City Ceremonial Campgrounds, Anadarko. For more information: 405-247-8896.

OCTOBER 12-13

CHEROKEE ART MARKET, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa, 777 W. Cherokee St., Catoosa, OK. There will be beadwork, pottery, painting, basketry, sculptures and textiles. 20 different categories will be judged, and a total of \$75,000 will be awarded to winning artists. A youth competition featuring the artwork of 6th through 12th grade students is also scheduled. Visitors to the Cherokee Art Market will enjoy cultural demonstrations such as flint knapping, basket weaving and storytelling. Please note: The Artist's Registration is Full. For more information: 918-384-6990.

OCTOBER 12

2nd Annual MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Gala at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa from 7pm-9pm. The MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction gala offers the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Indian Country and the local community the ability to honor inductees at a black tie & traditional clothing gala. The MVSKOKE Hall of Fame is a fundraising effort for the tribe's scholarship foundation and the annual Mvskoke Festival held every June. More info, contact William Lowe, tourism@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7992

OCTOBER 13-18

National Congress of American Indians 70th Annual Convention and Marketplace, Cox Business Center, 100 Civic Center,

Tulsa. For registration or more information: www.ncai.org.

OCTOBER 18-19

Euchee\Yuchi Heritage Festival, Creek County Fair Grounds (17806 W Highway 66) in Kellyville, OK. Demonstrations, Raffles & 50/50, Food Baskets, Stomp Dance and more. More info call Lucian Tiger 918-271-3611 or Kathy Holloway 918-695-0195

OCTOBER 19

Pryor Wellbriety Powwow, Mid-American Expo Center, Pryor (four miles south of Pryor). Gourd dancing at 2pm & 5pm. Grand Entry at 6pm. Free admission. Info call Mary Hayes, 918-698-0583. All Drums Welcome!

OCTOBER 19

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Bike Team 3rd Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day, Talihiina, OK. Will include a Bike Rides, 1-mile Warrior-Survivor Walk on Main Street, \$5.00 pancake breakfast at St. Paul UMC, wellness fair and many other events and sales booths. For more information: Nancy Jefferson, najefferson@cnhsa.com or 918-413-1581, Teresa Eagle Road, 918-567-7000 x6550.

OCTOBER 21-23

2013 Indian Education Summit, National Center for Employee Development (NCED) Conference Center & Hotel, 2801 East Hwy 9, Norman, OK. Join us to address a variety of culturally relevant educational issues and work to improve opportunities and outcomes for all Native American students. For more information: <http://aii.ou.edu/conferencetrainings/2013-indian-education-summit/>.

OCTOBER 26

Bacone Fall Pow Wow 2013 Noon - 11 P.M. at Muskogee Civic Center, W. Okmulgee & 5th Street Muskogee. Contest Powwow, free admission. All Princesses, Drums, Singers and Dancers invited. Vendor Info: Asa Lewis 918-360-0057 or lewisa@bacone.edu PW Info: Connie Falleaf 918-687-3299 or falleafc@bacone.edu Like us on Facebook!

OCTOBER 26

Family Fun Day sponsored by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, CPN Festival Grounds, North & South Reunion Halls, 1700 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK. All food and activities are FREE while supplies last. Arts & Crafts, food and other vendors. Supported by the IHS Prevention Grant for National Domestic Violence Awareness month. For more information: Amanda Chapman, 405-275-3176 or amanda.chapman@potawatomi.org.

NOVEMBER 9

Red Feather Gala, hosted by the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Proceeds will go towards construction of a new 7,000 square-foot pharmacy at the main clinic. For more information and the attendance form: <http://www.okcic.com/announcements/red-feather-gala-sponsorship/>.

NOVEMBER 15

Cmdr. John B. Herrington (Chickasaw), the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space, to speak at Comanche Nation College, James Cox Auditorium, 1608 SW 9th St., Lawton, OK. 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. For more information: 580-591-0203 or 580-353-7075.

Whitestone Hill: Was conflict battle or massacre?

■ **Soldiers captured 156 women, children and old men and marched them to Fort Thompson on the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota, where they were held as prisoners of war.**

PATRICK SPRINGER
The Forum

WHITESTONE HILL, N.D. (AP) – It stands as the deadliest conflict ever recorded on North Dakota soil.

Between 100 and 300 Dakota and Lakota Sioux men, women and children were killed, and 20 soldiers died from their wounds.

After the fighting stopped, soldiers lingered for two days, burning teepees, shooting dogs as well as wounded horses and burning the American Indians’ food and belongings.

An immense mound of buffalo meat – half a million pounds being dried for winter provisions – was burned. The melted tallow ran in streams down the hilly terrain.

The acts of destruction ensured that even the survivors were condemned to hunger and hardship as they scattered after the attack on a sprawling Sioux encampment in Dakota Territory.

But what happened on this lonely patch of rolling prairie 150 years ago, on Sept. 3, 1863, has been largely forgotten, as if swept from collective memory.

For the Dakota and Lakota, the incident was so painful that it remained submerged for many years. For whites, Whitestone Hill was overshadowed by the cataclysmic Civil War.

The 150th anniversary observance, held in September, aimed to change that, to help heal historical wounds among descendants of the victims, The Forum reported.

Efforts to nominate Whitestone Hill to the National Register of Historic Places have prompted a deeper examination in recent years about the enormous human suffering that came from the clash and a reappraisal of what happened and why.

The U.S. Army, which was carrying out reprisal raids

following the deadly 1862 Minnesota Uprising, called it the Battle of Whitestone Hill. Today, in fact, the National Park Service recognizes the site – which is in Dickey County, a 90-minute drive south from Jamestown – as a Civil War battlefield.

Descendants of the Dakota and Lakota Sioux, many of them from Yanktonai bands, use a different word to describe what happened here. They call it a massacre, with human consequences still felt today.

Mary Big Moccasin had spent some glorious late summer days playing children’s games.

Her family was among the 4,000 Sioux, mostly Yanktonais and Hunkpatina, who had gathered for a late summer ritual, a trade rendezvous and buffalo hunt.

Late one afternoon, as the annual event was winding down, men in blue uniforms came swooping into her teepee village on horseback, shooting indiscriminately and surrounding the camp.

The 9-year-old girl, who became separated from her family, was unable to escape unscathed. She was shot in the leg, but was able to crawl to safety in a ravine, where she hid for several days.

She watched as the soldiers shot dogs and wounded horses and heard the cries of women and children. She was taken prisoner and held for seven years.

As an old woman, she sometimes woke up from a nightmare, screaming, “Run, run, the soldiers are coming!”

Many years later, her great-great granddaughter, Ladonna Brave Bull Allard, came across Mary Big Moccasin’s account in an archive – where she also read that the site of the conflict, whose precise location had been forgotten, was discovered 20 years later when a settler was picking up buffalo bones and discovered they were mixed with human bones.

“Oh my God, these are our relatives!” Brave Bull Allard said, recalling her reaction.

Some Indians who were killed were hastily buried, some beneath stones, but their grave locations never were recorded.

“There has never been a concrete answer” about what happened to the remains, she said. Some bodies might have been burned, she added,

and some human bones likely were picked up with buffalo bones to be sold and ground into fertilizer.

The Yanktonais Sioux bands, sometimes referred to as Nakota, were widely dispersed after Whitestone, permanently separating many families whose members ended up in far-flung locations, Brave Bull Allard said.

Soldiers captured 156 women, children and old men and marched them to Fort Thompson on the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota, where they were held as prisoners of war. Some of their descendants still live there.

Others fled to the Devils Lake area in North Dakota, Fort Peck, Mont., or Canada to join relatives. Still others, including some of Brave Bull Allard’s relatives, later ended up at the Standing Rock Reservation.

Extended family connections lost over the years are only now being pieced together through genealogical research that Brave Bull Allard and others are helping to compile.

“After Whitestone our families separated,” she said. “We are trying to find our relatives again.”

The Yanktonais, once one of the most powerful tribes of the northern Plains, who had made their home for many years in the James River Valley, never fully recovered after Whitestone Hill. The scattered bands do not have a reservation of their own.

“The ripple effects are still all around,” Brave Bull Allard said. “We (Yanktonais) have never been given anything for the loss of our land. We never signed a treaty. We’ve been basically forgotten.”

Thomas Marshall, then a congressman representing North Dakota, secured a federal grant to buy 640 acres and rebury the 20 soldiers killed at Whitestone Hill.

A 30-foot granite monument topped by a bugler was erected, encircled by the soldiers’ graves on a hilltop. Marshall spoke when the memorial park was dedicated in 1914, an event attended by thousands.

For Marshall, the violence Whitestone Hill was justifiable. It cleared the way for white settlers, whom he viewed as superior to the Indians who were killed or displaced and later confined to reservations.

Lightning struck the monument in 1922, and later the North Dakota Legislature appropriated \$500 for repairs to what was maintained for years as a state park.

In 1942, during dedication of improvements built by Depression-era Works Progress Administration laborers, a small concrete cairn of field stones was erected in memory to the Indians who died.

Two decades later, 6,000 spectators turned out for a two-day observance of the Whitestone centennial in 1963. The anniversary weekend, hosted by six neighboring communities, had a celebratory air. Events included a rodeo with a capacity crowd and traditional dances by students at the Indian boarding school in Wahpeton.

In recent years, the State Historical Society of North Dakota has sponsored anniversary observances, often during Labor Day weekend, with educational programs about Whitestone Hill and related events.

This year, the Aug. 24 public observance of the milestone 150th anniversary was quiet and reflective. Brave Bull Allard, one of the tribal historians consulted for the report nominating the site for national historic recognition, served as a speaker. A buffalo dinner was served.

On Tuesday, the actual anniversary date, Dakota and Lakota gathered at Whitestone Hill for a private observance.

“It’s the 150th year,” Brave Bull Allard said. “We need to heal. The repercussions of what happened 150 years ago are still happening today.”

Today the conflict surrounding Whitestone Hill involves interpretation of the bloody conflict.

The controversy is one reason it has taken so long to prepare to nominate it for the National Register of Historic Places, said Tom Isern, a history professor at North Dakota State University who studies the Dakota Conflict in Dakota Territory.

“It’s a touchy subject,” he said. “This is the most controversial Dakota War site we have in North Dakota. There’s a greater sense of injustice around this site than any other.”

Some of the Hunkpapa Lakota at the encampment probably took

part in earlier clashes, and some Santee Dakota resisters from Minnesota also were present, along with refugee Santees.

The Yanktonais, the most prevalent group at Whitestone Hill, had nothing to do with the Minnesota uprising, and have a justifiable grievance over the attack, Isern said.

For some, the discussion has moved beyond whether the clash was a battle or massacre.

Aaron Barth, who is writing his doctoral dissertation in history at NDSU about events including Whitestone Hill, prefers the term, borrowed from another historian, “site of memorial, site of mourning.”

Still, he believes what happened was a massacre, and notes the general who led the Army troops, Gen. Alfred Sully, himself termed it a “slaughter.”

Dakota Goodhouse, a member of the Standing Rock tribe whose ancestry is both Hunkpapa Lakota and Yanktonai, agrees. But he doesn’t press the point.

“That is what happened, but I don’t know if North Dakota is ready for that word,” Goodhouse said. “I think massacre is such a strong, powerful, negative word.”

“Memorial has a connotation to it that demands respect,” he said. Today, Whitestone Hill should be a place of prayer and reflection, he said.

Goodhouse and Barth were on the team that compiled a detailed narrative history of Whitestone Hill for the State Historical Society of North Dakota, which is preparing the nomination for the national historic register.

The application went before a state review panel last week. An earlier version was rejected in 2010 because it was deemed to rely too much on official army reports, with insufficient input from the tribes.

Conflicting accounts, drawn from such different cultures and perspectives, are inevitable and happen all the time, Barth said.

Trying to arrive at a complete understanding is important, he said, but no historical accounting will ever be satisfactory or definitive. He added:

“There’s never going to be closure on this.”



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- Inside this issue:**
- **BIA limits services during shutdown**
 - **AARP honors notable Indian elders**
 - **OKC Hiloha: Chickasaw named Thunder girl**



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NATIVE TIMES

Cheyenne & Arapaho faction still holding election

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Despite the federal government shutdown, at least one faction of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes is still planning on conducting its previously scheduled primary election Tuesday.

Thanks to an ongoing leadership dispute between Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell and Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, the Bureau of Indian Affairs agreed earlier this year to provide

technical assistance to the tribes’ election commission. However, with more than 2,800 BIA employees placed on furlough status on Oct. 1, it is unclear whether any of the remaining employees will be available to monitor the ballot counting.

A spokeswoman for the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration confirmed Saturday that its commission will still conduct Tuesday’s election as scheduled. The offices of governor, lieutenant governor and four legislative seats are all slated to be on the

ballot with the top two finishers advancing to the general election on Nov. 4.

As of Friday afternoon, the BIA still has not publicly disclosed which side it will be working with, prompting each claimant governments’ election commissions to distribute the other’s candidate lists in September.

Earlier this summer, representatives for both sides said a compromise was not an option, so the commission affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration

continues to work out of the tribes’ complex in Concho and the Wandrie-Harjo government’s commission keeps working out of Weatherford. A resolution to name a third election commission was voted down at a tribal council meeting Saturday morning.

Nedra Darling, spokeswoman for the BIA, and Fred Blackbear, chairman of the election commission affiliated with the Wandrie-Harjo administration, did not respond to requests for comment.

GOVERNMENT CLOSED



A sign at Ellis Island, which features the Statue of Liberty, in New York City tells visitors that the island is closed because of a government shutdown.

COURTESY PHOTO

Okla. tribes weather U.S. shutdown

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Despite more than 2,800 furloughs across the country in the Bureau of Indian Affairs alone, many Oklahoma tribes are weathering the federal shutdown with minimal changes, at least for the short term.

“Like many other programs that are funded by the federal government, Citizen Potawatomi Nation programs have been affected by the government shutdown,” Citizen Potawatomi Nation vice chairwoman Linda Capps said. “However, we are not suspending any of our programs at this time. Careful planning and the ability to remain flexible have allowed us to continue business as usual for the short term. We will continue to evaluate our programs and our funding for as long as necessary.”

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation leadership is taking a similar approach. The Okmulgee based tribe is not altering or adjusting any of its programs for now, but will re-evaluate its position if the shutdown lasts more than 30 days.

“The planning process for our budgets has allowed us to be able to operate in a timely manner,” Chief George Tiger said. “I would encourage Congress to exercise bipartisan cooperation to pass the federal budget, which affects the entire nation.”

Spokesmen for the Wyandotte Nation and Kiowa Tribe confirmed via email that as of Friday, programs were continuing as normal.

See **TRIBES** on Page 3



National parks in Washington, D.C., as well as across America, are closed because of the federal shutdown.

COURTESY PHOTO

NCAI urges Congress to meet obligations to tribal nations

WASHINGTON – Officials with the National Congress of American Indians on Oct. 1 said the budget impasse and shutdown of the U.S. government will have devastating effects on tribal nations.

“The failure to come to a budget agreement threatens the capacity of tribal governments to deliver basic governmental services to their citizens. The federal government has made treaty commitments to our people, and in return we ceded the vast lands that make up the United States. The immediate shutdown crisis poses very real threats to tribal governments and denies health, nutrition, and other basic services to the most vulnerable tribal citizens,” a NCAI statement

reads.

The NCAI claims that even if the shutdown is resolved soon, a greater crisis remains – both the House and Senate versions of the Continuing Resolution sustained the devastating FY 2013 sequestration cuts.

“The sequester has deeply affected tribal programs: the Indian Health Service, Indian education funding streams, law enforcement, infrastructure programs such as housing and road maintenance, Head Start, and others. These funding commitments serve some of our nation’s most vulnerable citizens and are part of the federal government’s

See **NCAI** on Page 3

Judge denies Otoe-Missouria injunction request

■ **The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, headquartered in Red Rock, Okla., operates two online payday lending firms.**

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

NEW YORK – A federal judge denied a preliminary injunction request from the Otoe-Missouria Tribe Monday that would allow the tribe’s payday lending firms to conduct business in the Empire State at least a little longer.

Along with the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe is facing a legal challenge from the state of New York’s Department of Financial Services as part of its campaign to stop online payday lending companies from doing business in the state. The tribes had

requested a preliminary injunction to allow their companies to continue doing business with New York residents while the lawsuit plays out.

“The state’s action is directed at activity that takes place entirely off of tribal land, involving New York residents who never leave New York state,” Judge Richard Sullivan wrote in his decision. “These consumers are not on a reservation when they apply for a loan, agree to the loan, spend loan proceeds or repay those proceeds with interest. These consumers have not in any meaningful sense travelled to tribal land. Therefore, to the extent that the state seeks to prevent the tribes from making loans to New York residents who are in New York, it is regulating off-reservation activity.”

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, headquartered in Red Rock, Okla., operates two online payday lending firms while the Michigan-

See **INJUNCTION** on Page 3

Obama sets date for next Tribal Nations Conference

WASHINGTON – On Wednesday, November 13, President Obama will host the White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior.

The conference will provide leaders from the 566 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

Each federally recognized tribe will be invited to send one representative to the conference. This will be the fifth White House Tribal Nations Conference for the Obama Administration, and continues to build upon the President’s commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country and to improve the lives of Native Americans. Additional details about the conference will be released at a later date.



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

President Barack Obama joins onstage his adoptive Native American parents, Hartford “Sonny” Black Eagle and Mary Black Eagle during the 2011 Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of Interior in Washington D.C.

- Indian Affairs provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to a service population of more than 1.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Bureau of Indian Affairs services that will continue functions that are necessary to protect life and property, including law enforcement and operations of detention centers; social services to protect children and adults; irrigation and power – delivery of water and power; firefighting and response to emergency situations.

to a service population of more than 1.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who are enrolled members of 566 federally recognized tribes in the 48 contiguous United States and Alaska.

Funding for school operations is forward funded; therefore, Bureau of Indian Education activities will continue during the lapse in operations. All BIE funded schools, including Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, will remain open; BIE will maintain staff required to provide a safe and secure environment for students; transportation and maintenance of schools will continue; tribally-contracted school operations are forward funded and will remain open. The BIE provides education services to approximately 41,000 Indian students through 183 schools and dormitories and provides funding to 31 colleges, universities and post-secondary school.

Continued from Page 1

based Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has one. Both tribes have financial regulatory agencies that oversee the lending companies' activities.

our reservations to get the financial services they need. The court recognizes tribes' rights to sovereign authority over our territories, yet supplants that recognition with this decision. They aren't just allowing the state to choke off our businesses; they are choking off our livelihoods."

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, two of eastern Oklahoma's largest tribes, the Cherokee Nation and Osage Nation, have already had programs impacted by the Congressional gridlock.

Thanks to the shutdown, applications for Native American Section 184 home loans are not being processed until further

notice. Administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the move slows down operations for the Cherokee Nation, which has a mortgage assistance program among its offerings for tribal citizens.

“The Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation is disheartened that Congress could not reach an agreement to prevent the federal government from shutting down,” program director Gary Cooper said. “The HACN hopes the shutdown is brief and tribal citizens in the Native American Section 184 Loans process are minimally impacted. However, housing programs funded and operated by the Cherokee Nation are business as usual and will continue to serve our citizens because of the sound financial

management practices at both the Cherokee Nation and HACN.”

The tribe may also have to adjust its Women, Infants and Children program if the shutdown continues beyond Friday. One of nine Oklahoma tribes to administer the federal grant-funded service, Cherokee Nation WIC clinics serve more than 7,400 low-income pregnant, postpartum and nursing women, children younger than age 5 and infants every month by providing breastfeeding education and support, nutrition education, iron-fortified formula for infants who are not exclusively breastfeeding and grocery store vouchers for nutritious foods, such as eggs, cheese, peanut butter and vegetable juice.

The Osage Nation has already had to scale back the services

available through its WIC program due to the shutdown. Although the clinics are still open, no food vouchers are being distributed for the time being and no new infants will be eligible to receive formula through Osage Nation WIC until federal funds are restored. Each month, the program serves an average of 700 infants – both Native and non-Native – across Osage County and in neighboring Bartlesville, including about 30 new participants.

To date, WIC is the only Osage Nation program that has been directly impacted by the shutdown. However, tribal officials have said that if the shutdown lasts more than 30 days, other services, including Head Start and the Osage Nation Senior Services Program, may see cuts.

Continued from Page 1

trust responsibility to tribal nations,” NCAI officials wrote. “As Washington faces the threefold crisis of the shutdown, sequester, and debt limit, we call on the Congress to reach a long-term budget deal. The trust responsibility to tribal nations is not a line item and tribal programs must be exempt from budget cuts in any budget deal.”

In September, NCAI released a paper outlining the impacts of sequestration on tribal nations titled “Tribes Urge Congress to Honor Treaty Promises and Stop Sequestration.”

“With respect to funding for governmental services, more than half of the federally recognized tribes are self-governance and provide services to their citizens through contracts and compacts. If the shutdown is not reversed soon, these tribes and their citizens will be hit particularly hard,” the statement reads.

NCAI officials said, based on the contingency plans for the Departments of Interior and Health and Human Services, IHS would continue to provide direct clinical health care services as well as referrals for contracted services that cannot be provided through IHS clinics. However, IHS would be unable to provide funding to tribes and urban Indian health programs, and would not perform national policy development and issuance, oversight, and other functions, except those necessary to meet the immediate needs of the patients, medical staff, and medical facilities.

With BIA, programs are funded and operated in a highly decentralized manner, with 62 percent of appropriations provided directly to tribes and tribal organizations through grants, contracts, and compacts. Officials said that if tribes have carryover, they can spend it, but tribes won't receive any new money during a shutdown to reimburse tribes providing those services.

“While the role of Indian Affairs has changed significantly in the last three decades in response to increased utilization of Indian self-governance and self-determination, tribes still look to Indian Affairs for a broad spectrum of services,” NCAI officials said.

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Okla. Supreme Court rules against OSSAA in Tahlequah Sequoyah case

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTION
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the state’s governing body for high school sports acted in an “arbitrary and capricious manner” when it deemed a Bureau



COURTESY WWW.CHEROKEE.ORG
Brayden Scott sued after the OSSAA suspended him from playing football and eliminated his school from any participation in that year’s football playoffs.

of Indian Education school ineligible for the 2012 football playoffs. In a 7-2 decision, the justices said the rule used to block Brayden Scott, a Cherokee Nation citizen and December 2012 graduate of Sequoyah High School, from participating first appeared in the Oklahoma Secondary Schools

Activities Association’s policies during the 2011-12 school year, two years after Scott began attending athletic camps while a Sequoyah student. School officials acknowledged that Scott and some of his teammates had attended camps at the school’s expense, an apparent violation of OSSAA policies. In November 2012, the OSSAA ruled that Sequoyah had to forfeit all nine of its regular season wins, temporarily suspended more than a dozen Sequoyah football players, permanently suspended Scott and eliminated Sequoyah from any participation in that year’s football playoffs. Scott sued to have his eligibility reinstated and Sequoyah returned to the playoffs. He was denied in Cherokee County District Court, but Tuesday’s ruling overturned that decision. “Retroactive application of policies that did not exist for the majority of the alleged violations is inherently arbitrary and capricious because it has no basis in reason and is in complete disregard of the facts and circumstances,” the court wrote. The court also ruled that the OSSAA is not authorized by its rules to impose financial penalties on the school and players. OSSAA wanted the BIE school to pay up to \$25,000 for attorney and investigators’ fees, plus required current students to pay back the school for any camp fees paid on their behalf.

Head of Okla. sports board testifies at oversight hearing

SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Despite numerous complaints from legislators, coaches, and parents of student-athletes, the head of the embattled organization that governs Oklahoma high school sports said Thursday that there is no need for the Legislature to impose statutory restrictions on the group. Ed Sheakley, the executive director of the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association, told members of the House Administrative Rules, Government Oversight and Repealer Committee that while there are some policy changes that should be made, they should come from the group’s member schools and the OSSAA’s governing board, not the Legislature. Sheakley’s testimony came on the third and final day of the committee’s three-day probe into the association and its finances and two days after a scathing 7-2 opinion from the Oklahoma Supreme Court that determined the association acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner in its handling of a high school football player’s case. Among the suggestions discussed by legislators were requiring the OSSAA to comply with the state’s Open Records and Open Meetings laws.

“I believe we’re already doing that right now,” Sheakley said. “There’s nothing being done behind closed doors. I believe we’re very transparent with our membership.” Sheakley also maintained that the association is a private, volunteer association, despite the Supreme Court’s suggestion in its ruling that it would treat the group in the future as a state agency because it is so interwoven with the public school system. Chad Smith was the attorney for the successful plaintiff in the case, Brayden Scott, a senior quarterback at Sequoyah School in Tahlequah, a federal Indian boarding school operated by the Cherokee Nation, who had been ruled ineligible by OSSAA. Smith, the former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, testified at Thursday’s hearing that the OSSAA’s rulemaking process is convoluted and that its extensive policies and rules are difficult for the average parent or coach to understand. “It was a nightmare,” Smith said. Smith also said the governance and appeals process of the OSSAA, which involves a 14-member governing board of mostly school principals and superintendents, is “fatally flawed.” He urged lawmakers to consider implementing an administrative law judge to handle appeals and

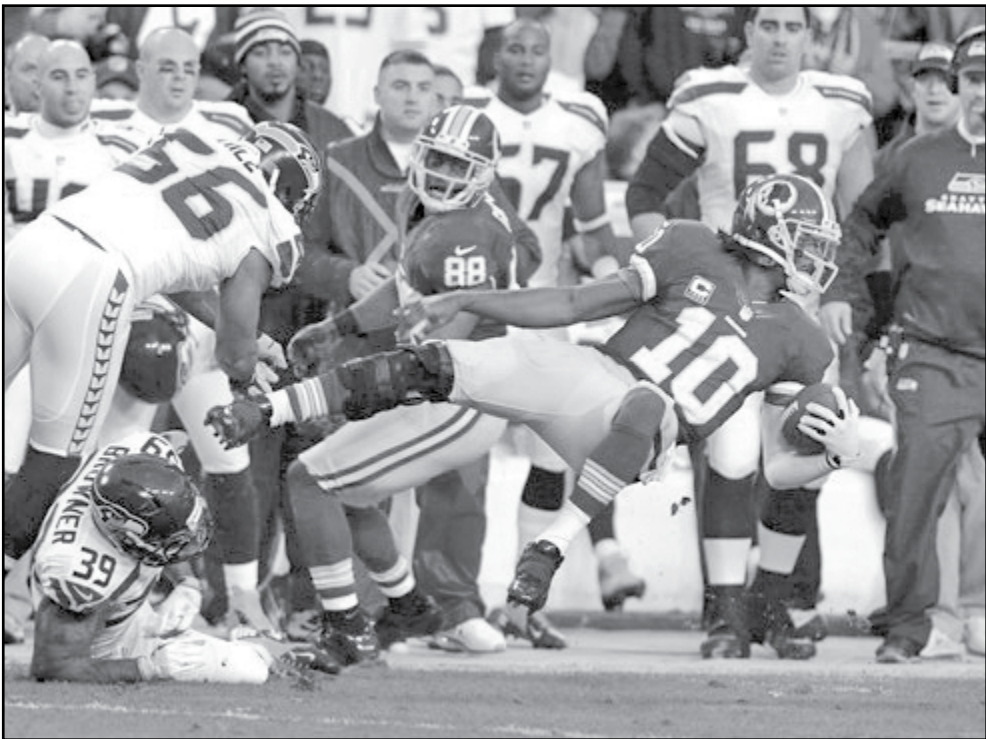
streamline the association’s public rulemaking process. The OSSAA oversees extracurricular activities for nearly every public school in Oklahoma for grades seven through 12, including the makeup of athletic districts, playoffs and student transfers and eligibility. Funded primarily through gate revenue from high school sports championship games, the association had a \$5.4 million operating budget during the fiscal year that ended in June, and Sheakley said the agency also maintains a \$2 million reserve fund and spent \$400,000 in attorney fees last year. The three-day hearing before the House Administrative Rules, Government Oversight and Repealer Committee involved testimony from numerous parents, coaches and attorneys and centered mostly around the emotionally charged issue of student transfers, where varsity athletes often lose a year of eligibility when changing districts. “There are a lot of people who are not happy with this organization and I think it was a highly productive use of the committee’s time,” Chairman Rep. Gus Blackwell, R-Laverne, said after the meeting. “Several pieces of legislation have been proposed from this study that will change business as usual at the OSSAA.”

Obama says nickname offends ‘a sizable group of people’

JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Barack Obama says he would “think about changing” the Washington Redskins’ name if he owned the football team as he waded into the controversy involving a word many consider offensive to Native Americans. Obama, in an interview with The Associated Press, said team names such as the Redskins offend “a sizable group of people.” He said that while fans get attached to the names, nostalgia may not be a good enough reason to keep them in place.

“I don’t know whether our attachment to a particular name should override the real legitimate concerns that people have about these things,” he said in the interview, which was conducted Friday at the White House. An avid sports fan who roots for his hometown Chicago Bears, Obama said he doesn’t think Washington football fans are purposely trying to offend American Indians. “I don’t want to detract from the wonderful Redskins fans that are here. They love their team and rightly so,” he said. But he appeared to come down on the side of those who have sharply criticized the football team’s name, noting that Indians “feel pretty strongly” about mascots and team names that depict negative stereotypes



RICHARD LIPSKI | ASSOCIATED PRESS
Washington quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) takes flight for a first down after being tackled by Seahawks cornerback Brandon Browner (39) during the first quarter of their NFL playoff football game on Jan. 6 in Landover, Md. Washington, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray has said that if the team wants to come back to Washington, D.C., it would have to consider a name change.

about their heritage. The team’s owner, Dan Snyder has vowed to never abandon the name. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said last month that the league should pay attention to those offended by the name – a subtle change in position for Goodell, who had more strongly supported the name in his previous statements this year. Lanny J. Davis, an attorney for the Redskins, said the team’s fans don’t intend to “disparage or disrespect” anyone. “The name ‘Washington Redskins’ is 80 years old. It’s our history and legacy and tradition,” Davis said in an

emailed statement in which he also identified himself as an Obama supporter. “We Redskins fans sing ‘Hail to the Redskins’ every Sunday as a word of honor, not disparagement.” Other professional sports teams have Indian names, including football’s Kansas City Chiefs and baseball’s Atlanta Braves and Cleveland Indians. Davis referred to fans of those teams and hockey’s Chicago Blackhawks in his statement, saying Redskins fans “love our team and its name and, like those fans, we do not intend to disparage or disrespect a racial or ethnic group.”

Numerous colleges and universities have changed names that reference Native Americans. St. John’s changed its mascot from the Redmen to the Red Storm, Marquette is now the Golden Eagles instead of the Warriors and Stanford switched from the Indians to the Cardinal. The Redskins’ name has attracted a fresh round of controversy in recent months, with local leaders in Washington calling for a name change and some media outlets refraining from using the name. The name is the subject of a long-running legal challenge from a group of American Indians seeking to block the

team from having federal trademark protection. Congressional lawmakers have introduced a bill seeking the same goal, though it appears unlikely to pass. “What a prudent and wise use of the bully pulpit,” Suzan Shown Harjo, a plaintiff in that case, said in an interview Saturday. “I am so glad that he said that and I hope that people hear a reasoned response from the president and will pay attention to this issue.” Harjo said the issue “involves lots of hurt and pain and ongoing name-calling and bullying of our children that goes with this name. We just need to have an end to it.”

“There’s no such thing as a good stereotype, no matter how well-intentioned, no matter how good people feel about it,” Harjo added. “It still has negative ramifications for our people.” “These are relics of the past. They should be consigned to museums and history books and people can feel good about them there,” she said. “But they should not be allowed in polite society.” Opponents of the Redskins name plan to hold a symposium Monday at the Washington hotel hosting the NFL’s fall meeting. “We really appreciate the president underscoring what we’ve been saying,” said Ray Halbritter, leader of the Oneida Indian Nation, a tribe from upstate New York that’s been campaigning against the name. “There’s just no

place for a professional football team to be using what the dictionary defines as a racially offensive term.” Halbritter said the NFL and Snyder could “borrow a page from the president” and use a decision to change the team’s name as a “teachable moment.” Despite the controversy, an AP-GfK poll conducted in April showed that, nationally, “Redskins” still enjoys wide support. Nearly 4 in 5 Americans don’t think the team should change its name, the survey found. Only 11 percent think it should be changed, while 8 percent weren’t sure and 2 percent didn’t answer.

Obama said he doesn’t have a direct stake in the Redskins debate since he’s not a team owner. But he hinted that might be part of his post-White House plans. “Maybe after I leave the presidency,” he joked. “I think it would be a lot of fun.” “I’d probably look at a basketball team before I looked at a football team,” said Obama, who plays basketball in his spare time, has coached his daughter’s basketball team and is a fan of the NBA’s Chicago Bulls. “I know more about basketball than I do about football.” --- Associated Press writers Joseph White and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.



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COMMENTARY

Former Wichita President was a hero

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE



DR. DEAN CHAVERS
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Newton Lamar served as President of the Wichita Tribe longer than anyone in modern history, and won many victories both for the tribe and for Indians nationwide. During four of the years he was President of the Tribe he also served as President of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association.

Newton started his adult life as a BIA policeman and worked on several reservations as a young adult. In one of his assignments he met his future wife Katherine, a Blackfeet woman. In the 1960s and 1970s he was the Chief of the Navajo Nation police department for several years. But he eventually got tired of being away from home, and in the early 1970s he moved the family back to his mother's home place outside Anadarko.

He was first elected as President of the Wichita Tribe in 1976 and served for the next 15 years. In 1981 he won again, and Leslie Standing won as Vice President, and the two men formed a strong team that had significant victories over the next decade.

When Newton took office, the Tribe had just lost a lawsuit over the lands that had been taken illegally from them. The lawyer who lost the case advised them to get a high-powered law firm, one that could handle the lobbying that was necessary.

Newton and the Tribal Council settled on Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Wilder, a big-time Indian law firm in Washington, which first had to get Congress to pass legislation allowing the tribe to sue again. But this time they got the legislation passed and won the lawsuit and got paid for their lands.

When Newton uncovered the "R. L. Larson" account by accident one day in 1986, he had no idea that he was opening one of the biggest scandals in BIA history. It got him thrown out of office as the Chairman of the Wichita Tribe, cost him years of grief, and he had to file and win a lawsuit before he could win back his office. It happened one day while he was working in Washington at the NTCA offices.

Newton was in the offices of NTCA in Washington that morning in 1986 when he got a call from his mother back in Anadarko. She asked him to call the Anadarko

Area Office and ask them when she was going to get a check from the oil that was being pumped from her lands. She had not received a check in two years! She had oil wells on her lands, and the oil had been pumping for years. She needed the money. The oil royalties were her largest source of income.

Newton immediately demanded that the BIA provide records of the Trust Fund accounts for all members of the Wichita Tribe. But the BIA refused, knowing that they mishandled these funds for years.

He and Les Standing even went out to the oil fields and checked the wells for themselves. They found that instead of all the natural gas coming through the meter, there was a diverter valve allowing some of it to bypass the meter and not be counted for royalties. This became another thorn in the side of the BIA oil managers, who have still not reformed their rotten and illegal system of royalty payments.

His appeals to Interior Secretary James Watt got no answers, either. But finally Watt did appoint a commission to look into the Indian trust funds. This so-called Linowes Commission only looked at where the trust funds originated, and not where the funds went once they were produced. It was like investigating with blinders on.

Despite their attempts not to see anything, they found huge under reporting of the number of barrels of oil pumped from Indian lands. Indians had been cheated out of billions of dollars in royalty funds. To this day, no one has been prosecuted for stealing this money and no one has yet accounted for where it went—except for Newton.

In his second uncovering of bad administration by the BIA, a little later, while visiting the BIA office in Anadarko, Oklahoma on official business for the tribe, Newton accidentally found the beginning of the answer to where his mother's money was. As he was waiting for his appointment, the receptionist left a drawer open on a filing cabinet, and Newton looked inside out of curiosity. What he found shocked him.

The BIA had a slush fund that it had operated for years. Money that was owed to Indians for Individual Indian Monies (IIM) and Individual Monies from the Proceeds of Labor (IMPL) were being shunted into the R. L. Larson account—a BIA slush fund.

The monies were being used to pay for annual picnics, Christmas parties, trips, and gifts and prizes for employees. In the meantime, the Indians who were due to be paid this money were not being paid, and the majority of them lived in poverty.

The IIM monies included royalties from oil and gas, mineral extraction, land use agreements such as leases, right-of-way payments, investment income, and similar sources. As the Cobell litigation has documented within the past decade, the actual amounts of money the BIA has

"lost" is somewhere between \$27 billion and \$100 billion. It is the difference between Indians being able to live adequately above the poverty level and living in poverty. The amounts that Indians have lost will never be known. But with approximately one-quarter of the nation's petroleum, minerals, coal, natural gas, thermal energy, uranium, and other resources being on Indian lands, the amount that is "missing" is enormous.

Newton immediately demanded that the BIA account for its IIM monies as well as its IMPL monies. He demanded that they produce the records for all members of the Wichita Tribe. But his inquiries to the Anadarko Area Office hit a stone wall. No one there could or would give him an answer about when payments would be made or how much the payments would be.

During this same time, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Ross Swimmer, took umbrage at a number of actions that Newton had taken. Swimmer, the former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a strong Republican, resented that Newton had revealed the R. L. Larson slush fund.

And when Newton started pushing hard for reform of the BIA's procedures for accounting for Indian oil and gas monies, Ross refused to certify Newton's reelection to a third term as President.

Ross threw Newton out of office, but Newton did not take it lying down. He sued the Bureau and Ross to be reinstated and win his office back. The local Indian CFR court under Phil Lujan refused to reinstate him, but on appeal the higher court ordered him reinstated as President. As in other cases, the court said the BIA's actions were arbitrary and capricious.

After these types of encounters, Newton never trusted the BIA again. He taped all his conversations with the BIA for years, which is legal in Oklahoma. Before he died, he had filled over 100 hours of tapes with his conversations with various BIA officials.

In another encounter with the BIA, Newton, Les Standing, Newton Rose, a councilman, and the tribal attorney, a young woman named Pat Brown, met with BIA oil and gas people in Denver. Newton wanted them to renegotiate the terms of oil and gas leases on Indian lands. If an Indian owned a piece of land with a well on it, and the company drilled a second well, the Indian still only got paid for the first well. At the same time, non-Indians right next door would be paid for oil or gas from both wells. Newton insisted that the rules be changed to allow the Indian to be paid for both wells.

They met with the BIA people at

a hotel in Denver for a day, with no positive results. The next morning, as they met for the final time, the BIA people said they had to catch a noon flight back to DC and would have to finish well before then. In the meantime they were stalling and had not agreed to any of the terms that Newton and his delegation wanted.

At ten o'clock Newton went to the double doors and held them together. "You son-of-a-bitches are not going to leave here until you change those regulations," he told them. Since he was the biggest man in the room, weighing well over 250 pounds, the two little puny BIA bureaucrats knew they would not be able to catch their flight.

"You are not going to get out until you agree to our language," Newton told them. The BIA guys asked for permission to go to the back room to talk it over. Newton Rose, Pat Brown, and Les Standing asked Newton, "Are you sure you can get away with this?"

Newton told them, "I'm not letting them out of this hotel room until they put the renegotiation terms in the regulations." Presently the BIA people came back and said they would agree. Newton told them, "Go back there and come up with a draft with the right language and I'll let you out." Before they left, the two BIA people had put the Newton Lamar language into their new regulations.

I loved Newton. In fact, when I lived in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma for four years, 1981-1985, Newton called me one day and asked me to come visit him in Anadarko. "When do you want me to come?" I asked him.

"How about tomorrow?" he asked. I got up the next morning and drove the 150 miles from Broken Arrow to Anadarko to have lunch with this great man. And I have never regretted it, even though my wife said I was crazy to drive that far just for lunch. We had some great barbecue sandwiches and talked politics for two hours. He told me all about the R. L. Larson account and how he had accidentally uncovered it.

Newton died in 1992 from a massive heart attack. He had been working in Florida for the Miccosukee Tribe for a couple of years after he had left office with his Wichita Tribe, and then had gone to Montana to work when he had the heart attack. I miss him terribly.

Dr. Dean Chavers is Director of Catching the Dream, a scholarship and school improvement organization in Albuquerque. His next book, to be published by Peter Lang Publishers, is "The American Indian Dropout." This column originally appeared in his book "Modern American Indian Leaders."



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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584 NW Bingo Rd., Lawton, OK 73502
(580) 492-3269
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American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to participate in a dissertation research study regarding the impact of out of home placement on American Indian people. Research supports the fact that there can be harm to the child "if efforts are made to change or replace the cultural values, beliefs, and traditions of a foster child with those of a different culture... as they are associated with chronic and serious health and social problems". (Brown et al., 2009, p. 120).

Participants will be asked to complete a packet of three short surveys regarding your life satisfaction, level of enculturation and a short demographic survey. This will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. As a participant, you will be offered the opportunity to participate in a drawing for 1 of 4 \$25 Visa gift cards, that will be dispersed as soon as all needed surveys have been collected.

This study will include American Indian participants that have been in the child welfare system and who were placed out of the home to include individuals who were raised in American Indian, Kin, and Non-Indian homes.

Participants will be required to be over the age of eighteen years old, and have experienced at least one out of home placement as a minor child.

If you are interested in this study, please inquire at 951-295-7038 or email: santanalmft@hotmail.com and a survey can be mailed to you. Or you can log on to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TP69VM2>

DOCTORS PATH APARTMENTS


Beginning October 1, 2013 through October 22, 2012, a 40 unit building, including 2 units designated for the disabled, located at 641 Doctors Path, Riverhead, NY 11901, is available for renting to those with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on income guidelines. Interested persons may obtain an application by contacting:

516-437-0900, ext 38
Give your name, address and telephone number and an application will be mailed to you.
COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT BY REGULAR MAIL. MUST BE RECIEVED BY OCTOBER 30, 2013.




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THE GREATER TULSA AREA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

JOB FAIR

WHEN
Thursday November 7, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE
Central Center in Centennial Park,
1023 E. 6th St. Tulsa, OK 74012

*For more information, please contact Sammy Haynes at:
(918) 704-2000 or email gtaiacinfo@gmail.com*

SPONSORED BY THE GREATER TULSA AREA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION,
CITY OF TULSA HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT, AND THE TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Fall craft show benefits Native men needing a hand up

LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

FALFA, Okla. - In a Good Way farm will hold a Harvest Festival Craft Show and Farmers Market at its non-profit training farm near Falfa on Saturday, Nov. 2, starting at 9 a.m. rain or shine.

Teddi Irwin, executive director of the farm, invites crafters, farmers, and gardeners to reserve a booth, bring their homegrown and homemade items to sell.

Booth spaces are 10x10. Vendors will be responsible for providing their own display table, chair and tents. Booth rental is \$25.

Dollar Dogs and drinks will also be sold the day of the event, along with homemade baked goods made from scratch, diabetic baked goods and even homemade all-natural doggie treats. Pets, though, are not allowed at the event.

"Our farm has a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains at any time but fall is just spectacular with the farm showing it's finest fall display of bright orange, red and gold leaves," said Irwin.

“This craft show will be one of the events we will hold to help raise funds to rebuild our bunk house which will provide a residence for four Native American men who need a hand up. The existing house is structurally sound but needs some fixing up, including handicapped accessibility, partitioning, a kitchen and another bathroom. This craft show will help us raise those needed funds”

The farm will be open for tours the day of the craft show. The event will also provide the community a great place to do a little Christmas shopping.

In a Good Way is located southwest of Falfa Baptist Church off Falfa Road. The church is located approximately five miles East of Talihina on Route 63. Signs will help people find the location and will be placed along the way.

“We are looking for people to put up signs Nov. 2, the morning of the event. So if you live along the route to the farm and will erect a directional sign let us know and we will provide you with the sign in advance,” Irwin added. For all information call Teddi Irwin at 918-567-3313 or email teddi@inagoodway.org.



Native *Fashion* for Action

SPECIAL GUESTS
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Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma - Nikki Amos
Kansas State Representative - Ponka-We Victors

EMCEES
Mark Wilson & John Ann Thompson

DJ
Taylor Mann

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at oklahoma-ocie.org

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*Shayne Watson Designs
Photographer: Larry Price*

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10.15.13

6PM Doors Open // Networking & Hors d'oeuvres
7PM Fashion Show // Silent Auction & Dancing to Follow
IDL Ballroom, 230 E. 1st St., Tulsa, OK 74103




EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.**

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber
of Commerce Tulsa Chapter
luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the
Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union.
For reservation or more info
email Traci Phillips, [tphillips@
naturalevolution.com](mailto:tphillips@naturalevolution.com)

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-
2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal
Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd,
Oklahoma City [www.okchoctaws.](http://www.okchoctaws.org)
[org](http://www.okchoctaws.org)

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council
(NNYC) bimonthly meetings from
6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth
Services of Tulsa Activity Center
(311 S. Madison - on 3rd just
west of Peoria). Call to confirm
location. Info Call: Chad Gilley
(918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum
and Cultural Center presents
Comanche Code of Honor, a
new exhibit honoring the heroic
Comanche Code Talkers of World
War II. For more information
call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

OCTOBER 10
Native American Chamber of
Commerce networking luncheon,
Choctaw Resort Conference
Center at The Den, 4216 S.
HWY 69/75, Durant, Okla.
More information, email Tracy
Copeland, Tracy Copeland at
tcopeland@tgiipromo.com

OCTOBER 12
Rogers County Cherokees
 annual Hog Fry, noon – 2pm - All
 Rogers County Cherokees and
 guests are invited to the RCCA
 gathering place, 15488 E. 523
 Road, Claremore. For additional
 information contact Beverly
 Cowan, vice president, 918-760-
 1735, or email [beverlycowan@
 sbcglobal.net](mailto:beverlycowan@sbcglobal.net).

OCTOBER 12-13
Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior
Society Ceremonial, Indian
City Ceremonial Campgrounds,
Anadarko. For more information:
405-247-8896.

OCTOBER 12-13
CHEROKEE ART MARKET, Hard
Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa,
777 W. Cherokee St., Catoosa,
OK. There will be beadwork,
pottery, painting, basketry,
sculptures and textiles. 20
different categories will be
judged, and a total of \$75,000
will be awarded to winning
artists. A youth competition
featuring the artwork of 6th
through 12th grade students is

also scheduled. Visitors to the Cherokee Art Market will enjoy cultural demonstrations such as flint knapping, basket weaving and storytelling. Please note: The Artist's Registration is Full. For more information: 918-384-6990.

OCTOBER 12
2nd Annual MVSKOKE Hall of
Fame Gala at the River Spirit
Event Center in Tulsa from
7pm-9pm. The MVSKOKE Hall of
Fame Induction gala offers the
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Indian
Country and the local community
the ability to honor inductees at
a black tie & traditional clothing
gala. The MVSKOKE Hall of Fame
is a fundraising effort for the
tribe's scholarship foundation
and the annual Mvskoke Festival
held every June. More info,
contact William Lowe, tourism@
mcn-nsn.gov or
918-732-7992

OCTOBER 13-18
National Congress of American
Indians 70th Annual Convention
and Marketplace, Cox Business
Center, 100 Civic Center,
Tulsa. For registration or more
information: www.ncai.org.

OCTOBER 15
Native Fashion for Action, 5pm-11pm, IDL Ballroom, 230 E 1st St., Tulsa. Networking, fashion show, music and dancing. For more info, visit www.oklahoma-ocie.org or Native Fashion for Action on Facebook. Tickets are \$10 and sold at the door. Pre-sale available online at oklahoma-ocie.org. All proceeds will go towards scholarships. Dress to impress!

OCTOBER 18-19
Indian Taco Dinner, 11am-4pm,
Tulsa Indian United Methodist

**Church, 1901 N College, Tulsa.
Info call 918-834-1956 or email
your order to tulsaindianUMC@
outlook.com. Delivery on Friday
only, or join us on site. Taco,
dessert and drink \$7.**

OCTOBER 18-19
Euchee\Yuchi Heritage Festival,
Creek County Fair Grounds
(17806 W Highway 66) in
Kellyville, OK. Demonstrations,
Raffles & 50/50, Food Baskets,
Stomp Dance and more. More
info call Lucian Tiger 918-271-
3611 or Kathy Holloway 918-695-
0195

OCTOBER 19
Pryor Wellbriety Powwow, Mid-
American Expo Center, Pryor
(four miles south of Pryor). Gourd
dancing at 2pm & 5pm. Grand
Entry at 6pm. Free admission.
Info call Mary Hayes, 918-698-
0583. All Drums Welcome!

OCTOBER 19
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Bike Team 3rd Annual Breast
Cancer Awareness Day, Tahlihana,
OK. Will include a Bike Rides,
1-mile Warrior-Survivor Walk
on Main Street, \$5.00 pancake
breakfast at St. Paul UMC,
wellness fair and many other
events and sales booths. For
more information: Nancy
Jefferson, najefferson@cnhsa.com
or 918-413-1581, Teresa
Eagle Road, 918-567-7000 x6550.

OCTOBER 21-23
2013 Indian Education Summit,
National Center for Employee
Development (NCED) Conference
Center & Hotel, 2801 East
Hwy 9, Norman, OK. Join us to
address a variety of culturally
relevant educational issues and
work to improve opportunities
and outcomes for all Native

American students. For more information: <http://aii.ou.edu/conferencestrainings/2013-indian-education-summit/>.

OCTOBER 26
Bacone Fall Pow Wow 2013
Noon - 11 P.M. at Muskogee Civic
Center, W. Okmulgee & 5th Street
Muskogee. Contest Powwow,
free admission. All Princesses,
Drums, Singers and Dancers
invited. Vendor Info: Asa Lewis
918-360-0057 or lewisa@bacone.
edu PW Info: Connie Falleaf 918-
687-3299 or falleafc@bacone.edu
Like us on Facebook!

OCTOBER 26
Fall Powwow, Payne County
Fairgrounds, Stillwater, OK.
Schedule: 12:00 PM Gourd
Dance, 4:30 PM Supper Break,
5:30 PM Gourd Dance, 6:30 PM
Grand Entry, All Contests, 11:00
PM Closing. Contact Twauna
Williams, (405) 744-0401.

OCTOBER 26
Family Fun Day sponsored by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, CPN Festival Grounds, North & South Reunion Halls, 1700 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK. All food and activities are FREE while supplies last. Arts & Crafts, food and other vendors. Supported by the IHS Prevention Grant for National Domestic Violence Awareness month. For more information: Amanda Chapman, 405-275-3176 or amanda.chapman@potawatomi.org.

NOVEMBER 9
Red Feather Gala, hosted by the
Oklahoma City Indian Clinic,
5:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Proceeds
will go towards construction
of a new 7,000 square-foot
pharmacy at the main clinic.

OKC HILOHA

Chickasaw woman tapped for NBA’S Thunder Girls dance team

OKLAHOMA CITY – A young Chickasaw woman will combine enthusiasm, great dance moves and a bright demeanor to Chesapeake Arena soon to entertain audiences and cheer on the National Basketball Association’s (NBA) Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team.

Katie Callaway, a 2005 graduate of Ada High School, got there the old fashioned way - she earned it.

And she’s a Chickasaw for sure – unconquerable.

Two years ago, Callaway decided to put her years of dance training and cheerleading abilities to the ultimate test. She tried out for the Oklahoma City Thunder Girls, a dance team that entertains fans at home games for the newest NBA team.

She wasn’t chosen.

Despite the fact she was formally trained in dance from third grade through her sophomore year at AHS, her “technique” wasn’t what the team was looking for, she was told by judges.

“I worked hard, very hard, to improve my technique,” Callaway said reflecting on the failed effort. “I worked on leaps, turns, and pointed toes. It was a full-on effort for a year. It was tough.”

In August 2013, the 26-year-old proved she was up to the challenge.

She was selected for the 20-member Thunder Girls squad during auditions at the tribe’s Riverwind Casino in Norman. Among the judges were Thunder staff, the patriarch of Oklahoma weathermen Gary England and Miss Oklahoma Kelsey Griswald.

Cheering The Best

Her debut courtside will be November 3 when the Thunder hosts the Phoenix



Chickasaw citizen and dancer Katie Callaway, of Oklahoma City, during her audition for the Oklahoma City Thunder Girls. The Thunders Girls are the dance and cheer squad that supports the NBA’s Oklahoma City Thunder. Callaway was selected for the 20-woman team and will make her first Thunder Girl appearance Nov. 3 when the Thunder hosts the Phoenix Suns. Callaway also works for Chesapeake Energy as a drilling engineer technician.

Suns.

“I am so excited,” Callaway said. “I can’t wait to get on those sidelines and entertain the best fans of any city with an NBA team. I know Oklahoma fans are the best fans because I have been in those seats for the past six years.”

Cheering for the Thunder as a typical sports lover sparked her desire to be a member of the Thunder Girls.

“I wondered what it would be like to be down there. I wondered how exciting it was for the team and how much they looked forward to it,” she said.

Now that she is one of them, another trait typical of Chickasaw people has reawakened in her.

“Entertaining fans will be great, but giving back to the community is even more important,” Callaway said. The Thunder organization is tops in visiting hospitals, assisting those who can use a helping hand, and being involved in all aspects of the community. Being a part of the organization will give me that opportunity to give back, which is something I’m looking forward to very much.”

She comes by her Chickasaw heritage

naturally.

Her great-grandmother, the late Delta Wells, was an original enrollee with the tribe. Her grandfather, the late Jack Wells, served for years as a Chickasaw Tribal Legislator and made sure his granddaughter was immersed in the culture, history and traditions that make her Chickasaw.

“We’d go to festivals and I was a member of the Governor’s Honor Club,” Callaway said. “I learned my heritage is important and tradition is important. It is essential to know one’s self. I am very proud of my Chickasaw heritage.”

A Bright Future

Callaway wasn’t born in Ada, but she arrived in the community the Chickasaw Nation calls home as quickly as she could. Indeed, she was born in England where her father was stationed across the pond in the U.S. Air Force. Her mother, Gayla, is a Chickasaw who works for the Chickasaw Nation.

Callaway’s cheer and dance team moves come pretty naturally, too. She was a cheerleader at Ada High School. She’ll be putting those moves to good use this fall and winter when the Thunder begins its quest to be the best team in the

NBA.

It’s a part-time gig for Callaway. Her day job is with Chesapeake Energy where she works as a drilling engineer technician. She earned her bachelor’s degree in public relations from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

She’s moved up quickly in her professional life. She started work at Chesapeake as a receptionist and was promoted quickly to her present job, which involves all analytics of drilling for natural resources.

“If you have a passion and you’re willing to learn and try new challenges, doors will open for you,” she said.

New York City?

It may have been a four-month stint in New York that opened a door for Callaway. She discovered she wasn’t afraid of new challenges and unfamiliar surroundings.

As an intern for a public relations company in the Big Apple, Callaway drank in the city, its people, its unique place in America and its posh social settings while on the job.

Meeting editors of fashion magazines such as Vogue and others, in addition to “not being afraid to get out and explore” helped Callaway become more self-aware.

“It (the New York internship) was a very interesting experience, she said.

“I was given the opportunity to attend Fashion Week and meet important people. I realized I had more patience than most and I wasn’t scared to walk down the street, to say ‘hello’ or make eye contact. I believe my Oklahoma upbringing, my beliefs and Christian relationships made me pretty fearless.”



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Native American Exhibition – Art Sale



Tulsa Community College



Inside this issue:

- **NCAI, veterans honor Dusten Brown**
- **Column: Natives and the Affordable Care Act**
- **Creek Nation announces ‘game changer’**



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NATIVE TIMES

Budget Battle: For many tribes, shutdown’s effects could linger

MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) – Disruptions to some services for elderly American Indians and other needy residents of reservations could linger despite the end of the government shutdown, tribal officials said Thursday. It could take days or even

weeks to get backed-up funds flowing to tribal programs that are under contract with the federal government, officials said. And for many reservations, the headaches brought on by the shutdown only compounded difficulties posed by budget cuts that kicked in even before the impasse in Congress shut off payments entirely.

“When things like this happen, it usually trickles down to the poorest of the poor, and Native Americans, per capita, are in the lowest spectrum of income in the U.S.,” said Brian Cladoosby, president-elect of the National Congress of American Indians and chairman of Washington state’s Swinomish Tribe.

“D.C. has to get their act together. They have to quit running the government by chaos,” he said. “We are getting impacted by that type of government.”

There are more than 560 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. In

See **SHUTDOWN** on Page 2

Govt. shutdown forces NCAI to go to ‘Plan B’

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Neither rain nor snow nor a closed federal government could stop the National Congress of American Indians from converging upon the Cox Business Center for its 70th annual convention Oct. 14-18.

With the government shutdown lasting through the convention’s first three days, almost all of the scheduled federal attendees canceled their appearances, including U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Indian Health Services director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.). Recent record-breaking blizzards in the Northern Plains also kept many away from the conference.

“I always have a Plan B and a Plan C,” NCAI



The National Congress of American Indians held their annual convention last week in Tulsa, Okla., despite some schedule juggling due to the federal government shutdown.

Executive Director Jacqueline Pata said at the convention’s opening press conference on Oct. 14. “I’m in constant contact with AG Holder’s office and if the shutdown ends in time, he is going to try to make it down here.”

That Plan B turned into agenda shuffling over the first two days to cover Cole, Mullin and Holder’s

See **NCAI** on Page 4

NEW WAY TO SOBRIETY



David Smith, founder of the Yellowcorn Native American Recovery Center, shows how he burns sage to purify the area before a meeting.

Recovery center provides service from Native American perspective

DIANA NELSON
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH (AP) – People who walk clockwise around an altar of sage, sweet grass and cedar before their regular sobriety meetings know a different path can lead to recovery. Thirteen people followed that ritual at a recent talking circle of the Yellowcorn Native American Recovery Center, a

3-year-old outreach that co-founder David Smith calls “a service from a Native American cultural perspective,” an alternative to the 12-step programs of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, which he said do not resonate with many Indian people. Smith came to Pittsburgh four years ago, having achieved his own “clean date” on March 25, 1989, he said. In that effort, elders showed him the healing

powers within his own culture. Alternative sobriety services are few and Yellowcorn is the only Native American support center in the state, according to the Three Rivers Council of American Indians. Yellowcorn holds sessions from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays and from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays at the Onala

See **RECOVERY** on Page 4

Chippewa Cree Tribe furloughs most workers

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) – Montana’s Chippewa Cree Tribe has furloughed or laid off roughly 300 non-essential workers in anticipation that it could take one to two weeks for federal funding to resume following the end of the government shutdown.

Tribal representative Wade Colliflower said Friday that a skeleton crew of unpaid workers will continue to provide basic services. Law enforcement and health workers were exempt from the furloughs.

Colliflower says transit service on the 122,000-acre Rocky Boy’s reservation is operating at 20 percent, some tribal courts are not working and the enrollment office is closed down.

Like other tribes in Montana and elsewhere across the U.S., many programs on the 5,000-person reservation are subsidized by federal agencies. Others are paid for with tribal money that was delayed by the 16-day shutdown.

C&A election appeal moves forward

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – An election appeal from a pair of disqualified Cheyenne and Arapaho candidates is moving forward as the tribes attempt to regroup from one faction’s partially suspended election. After being removed from the ballot earlier this year by one of the two claimant Cheyenne and Arapaho election commissions, former governor and current gubernatorial candidate Darrell Flyingman and his running

mate, Adrianna “Dee” Harris, are contesting the decision to that faction’s Supreme Court. Despite the court denying their injunction request to postpone the Oct. 8 primary election, according to a handwritten court order issued Friday afternoon by the tribal Supreme Court affiliated with the Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, a hearing on Flyingman and Harris’ appeal is now scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 15, 10 days after tribal citizens are scheduled to go back to the polls. Based off of primary results

released Oct. 10 by the election commission affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, Eddie Hamilton and Cornell Sankey will face Roberta Hamilton and Jerry Levi in a Nov. 5 general election. Prairie Chief-Boswell and her running mate, Connie Yellowman-Hart, finished third by more than 100 votes. In a statement posted to his campaign’s Facebook page before Friday’s appeal hearing, Flyingman was confident in his appeal’s chances. “The people are now witnessing

the continued wrongdoings of the Boswell administration,” he wrote. “She lost her own election with her own appointed election commissioners and now we will see if her own court appointed judges defend her because she has control. In the meantime, my court hearing at 1:30 is to prove to the people that this whole election was invalid and unconstitutional for so many reasons. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal members deserve a fair and honest election without ballot tampering, vendor solicitation, voter suppression, false claims to register, intimidation

to secure political contributions, promise of appointment by candidates...” Despite the constitutional mandate that four legislative seats be on the October ballot, those races have been suspended due to incomplete ballots being distributed for two districts, Cheyenne No. 2 and Arapaho No. 2. As of Oct. 18, a timeline to resume the legislative election has not been publicly announced. Michelle Cecilia, legal counsel for the election commission

See **APPEAL** on Page 4

Symposium provides forum to discuss role of sacred sites, preservation

■ Moderated by Suzan Shown Harjo, president of the Morning Star Institute, several speakers spoke on their frustrations with the lack of federal oversight and uneven enforcement of existing regulations to protect tribal artifacts.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – Participants and representatives from academia, the arts, the Indian law community and three of northeastern Oklahoma’s largest tribes shared their thoughts and experiences on protecting sacred sites across Indian Country Oct. 16 at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

“It is only fitting that we do it here during NCAI’s 70th anniversary in a town that is shared by three tribes: Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee and Osage,” Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said. “There is nothing more important than protecting the sacred sites and lands of our people.”

Held in concert with the annual conference of the National Congress of American Indians and hosted through a collaboration of local and national organizations, the “Spirit Fire: Protection of Ancestors and Sacred Places” symposium provided a forum for voices across Indian Country to discuss the role of sacred sites and preservation efforts in the 21st century.

Moderated by Suzan Shown Harjo, president of the Morning Star Institute, several speakers spoke on their frustrations with the lack of federal oversight and uneven enforcement of existing regulations to protect tribal artifacts.

“The feds don’t know their own precedent and often try to forget it,” Harjo said. “We’re trying to do a full-court press on this, but if you look at who and what is in Washington,

I don’t really want to put this issue before those folks.”

Along with Tiger, symposium presenters included Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle; Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief Joe Crittenden; Hickory Ground Mekko (ceremonial leader) George Thompson; Oglala Lakota attorney and author Mario Gonzalez; James Riding In, a Pawnee Nation citizen and associate professor of American Indian studies at Arizona State University; Santee Sioux poet John Trudell and Euchee/Muscogee (Creek) poet and actor Richard Ray Whitman.

The symposium was sparked in part by an ongoing fight between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and an Alabama tribe over the alleged desecration and partial destruction of a Creek sacred site.

First filed in late 2012, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still pursuing federal litigation against the Poarch Band of Creek Indians over a \$246 million casino construction project near Wetumpka, Ala., that could potentially desecrate Hickory Ground, a burial site, ceremonial ground and the last pre-removal capitol of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. To date, 57 sets of human remains have been unearthed and reburied during the expansion process. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians contends that the project is in compliance with all federal laws and that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has no claim because they are not the established lineal descendants of the individuals unearthed during the excavation process.

Construction on the casino is slated to finish in early 2014. According to reports, an Oct. 3 job fair drew more than 1,000 applicants for the 500 new jobs created by the expansion project.

“We are still fighting the issue,” Thompson said. “We’ve gotten the media involved. We’ve taken it a step further and reached out to people in Washington to get involved.

“It just feels good to know that our brother and sister nations are involved and on our side. It feels good to know that we have people standing behind us.”



COURTESY NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
Dusten Brown, far right, stands silently while being honored by fellow veterans and audience members Oct. 15 during the National Congress of American Indians’ convention in downtown Tulsa.

NCAI honors Dusten Brown

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – A single silent veteran brought a full exhibit hall to its feet last week during the 70th convention of the National Congress of American Indians.

Flanked by his wife and more than 50 veterans from tribes across the country, Cherokee Nation citizen and current Oklahoma National Guard member Dusten Brown was recognized Oct. 15 by NCAI for his more than three-year fight to keep his daughter, Veronica.

Earlier this month, the protracted custody battle for the four-year-old ended after Brown and the Cherokee Nation dropped all pending appeals, citing Veronica’s best interests. After living with her biological family for almost two years, the child is now with her non-Native adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco, near Charleston, S.C.

“All of Indian Country has been on this roller coaster ride of emotions,” said NCAI Veterans Committee co-chairwoman and Rosebud Sioux tribal citizen Sandy White Hawk said. “This case has opened a collective wound. Now we need to begin a collective healing.”

Along with a star quilt and eagle feathers

for himself and his father, a Vietnam War veteran, Brown was given a plume for his daughter to present her with upon her return to Oklahoma.

“The last few months have been difficult as we’ve fought alongside Dusten and his family,” Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief Joe Crittenden said. “But Veronica is still a Cherokee citizen and we look forward to the day when she returns to Dusten.”

Slipping out a back entrance, Brown did not speak to reporters after the honor ceremony.

An Iraq War veteran, Brown gained custody of his daughter in 2011 after the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled that he had not given voluntary consent as required under the Indian Child Welfare Act. That decision was vacated and remanded back to the South Carolina courts in July by the U.S. Supreme Court on the grounds that Brown did not have standing under ICWA since he did not have custody of the child at birth, a ruling that many tribes have blasted as a blow to tribal sovereignty.

“Veronica and Dusten represent many, many families across the country,” White Hawk said. “There is a reason why this is happening. We have to be diligent and encourage our young men to know their rights as fathers.”

SHUTDOWN

Continued from Page 1

addition to direct federal assistance for foster care, health, education and other programs, many of them rely on the U.S. government to oversee and disburse revenues generated by reservation activities such as oil and gas development. Those funds, too, were tied up by the shutdown because the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs lacked the manpower to process payments.

On Montana’s Crow Indian Reservation, about 30 home health providers were among employees that remained furloughed Thursday with no word on when they might return to work, said Todd Wilson, director of the tribe’s health department.

The indefinite loss of those

jobs leaves families with elderly or disabled members few options for care, tribal officials said.

California’s Yurock Tribe expects to have 60 furloughed workers back on the job within 48 hours, said the tribe’s vice chairman, Susan Masten. That comes after the tribe shut down a wide range of programs Oct. 7, including tutoring programs for students, funds for the elderly, college scholarships, and general assistance payments to about 50 families.

Masten said she fears that in a few months, when the current budget deal expires, those programs could be threatened yet again.

On Montana’s Fort Belknap

Reservation, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes are considering taking out a loan of almost \$2 million to cover the cost of home heating for the poor, medical transportation, meals for seniors and other programs that were continued through the shutdown with tribal money, said tribal President Tracy “Ching” King.

A loan would sap the tribes’ budget since they would have to pay an unspecified amount of interest. But King said there was little choice, and that the money would protect against a repeat scenario should congressional budget negotiations again unravel in coming months.

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Harjo urges NCAI attendees to ‘go brown’

■ FedEx currently owns the naming rights to the National Football League stadium in Landover, Md., where the Washington team plays its home games.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – With the recent support of several high profile non-Natives, the National Congress of American Indians renewed its call for the abolition of Indian mascots

during its 70th annual national convention. “Look at when they (the mascots) were created,” NCAI executive director Jacqueline Pata said. “There were a lot of racist terms used back then, but since 1963, we haven’t seen another new Indian mascot. That should tell you something.” Citing unsuccessful efforts by the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin to effect change as a FedEx shareholder, former NCAI executive director and current Morning Star Institute president Suzan Shown Harjo urged conference attendees to reconsider doing business with the

international shipping company. FedEx currently owns the naming rights to the National Football League stadium in Landover, Md., where the Washington team plays its home games. “We need to be mindful of who we’re doing business with,” she said. “It is about time to stop doing business with FedEx. Go use UPS. Go brown.” Harjo, who is Cheyenne and Muscogee, was one of the named plaintiffs in a 1992 intellectual property lawsuit that sought to force the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Trademark Trial and Appeal Board to cancel the Washington

NFL team’s trademark registration. The lawsuit was eventually dismissed on the grounds that it was filed too late after team’s name and logo were trademarked. Days before the conference started, NCAI released a position paper outlining its objections to the continued use of Indian mascots, citing their negative psychological impact on Native youth, who are twice as likely to commit suicide as their white classmates. “This about more than being politically correct,” Pata said. “This is about creating a healthy environment for our youth. These mascots create a feeling of

oppression when you stop and think about it for a minute. “We just want the same amount of respect as other race groups.” About 900 schools, colleges, universities and professional teams across the country use Native mascots, a two-thirds decrease over the last 40 years. Among the institutions still using Native mascots are 61 high schools from Oklahoma alone, including both of the state’s Bureau of Indian Education boarding schools and one school in each of three of the state’s largest districts: Oklahoma City, Tulsa Public and Tulsa Union.

Flap over nickname no issue at 1 school

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) – Despite a national debate over the Washington NFL team nickname, Fort Wayne’s Redskins team at North Side High School hasn’t heard much discussion - at least this time around, school officials said. The Washington nickname has attracted a fresh round of controversy in recent months and is the subject of a long-running legal challenge from a group of American Indians seeking to block the NFL franchise from having federal trademark protection. President Barack Obama has said team names such as the Redskins offend a sizable group of people and that if he was the team’s owner, he might consider changing the name.

Daniel Snyder, the Washington team owner, has said he will not change the name of his team, which has had the name since it was founded in 1932. Forty-four of the Indiana High School Athletic Association’s 412 members use American Indian names for their sports teams, Sports Information Director Jason Wille told The Journal Gazette. Local schools have previously faced controversy with Native American names and mascots. Krista Stockman, Fort Wayne Community Schools spokeswoman, said there has been previous discussion about changing North Side High School’s team name but not recently. “It’s been a topic of conversation from time to time,” Stockman said. The district has several schools with similar mascots, including the Shawnee Middle School Braves, the Kekionga Middle School Warriors and the Miami Middle School Indians. Stockman said concerns

have been voiced over the years but the district has never reached the point where the names might be changed. Jared Young, a North Side High School senior, said he doesn’t believe the controversy will ever change North Side’s team name and mascot. “In my opinion, our mascot is a sign of strength,” Young said. “... We’re not demoting it, we’re promoting it.” Kirsten Ewing, a North Side freshman, said she wouldn’t be upset with a name change if the mascot was offending others. “It’s not really a big deal,” she said. “We could probably change it.” FWCS is not the only area district with Indian names, symbols or mascots. Others include the Bellmont Braves, Woodlan Warriors, Blackhawk Christian Braves and the Wawasee Warriors.

One local university did respond to the controversy a few years ago. In May 2005, Indiana Tech changed its school mascot while keeping its Warriors nickname. The university switched from an American Indian warrior mascot to a Roman warrior. Janet Schutte, Indiana Tech spokeswoman, said the decision was made to avoid offending any possible constituents and not because of complaints. “Our current warrior mascot looks more like an ancient Roman or Greek warrior, and it’s better suited for us,” Schutte said. She said the warrior shows strength and perseverance.

Assembly approves mascots bill

TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – Assembly Republicans passed a contentious bill Oct. 15 that would make it harder to strip public schools of American Indian mascots, sending the proposal on to the Senate despite Democrats’ complaints that the measure is racist. Democrats railed against the bill for 2 1/2 hours on the Assembly floor, taking turns blasting it as an ugly step backward in race relations. “Indians are real people. They’re not mascots,” said Rep. Nick Milroy, D-South Range. “Stand up for human rights and human dignity.” The bill comes as the Mukwonago Area School District is fighting a state Department of Public Instruction order to drop its “Indians” nickname and logo depicting an American Indian man in a headdress. District officials say they’ve used the nickname for more than 80 years; their lawyers say it could cost around \$100,000 to change it. The bill’s author, Rep. Stephen Nass, R-Whitewater, represents most of Mukwonago in the Assembly. He defended the bill on the floor, saying the current process for ordering schools to drop their nicknames is too slanted toward complainants and doesn’t give districts a fair chance to defend their beloved monikers. “What’s on the books right now is basically an outright ban,” Nass

said. “Right now the school district is guilty.” Under current state law, DPI must hold a hearing on a school’s race-based nickname if the agency receives a single complaint about it. The school must prove the nickname doesn’t promote discrimination at a hearing. DPI then decides whether the name must go. Nass’ bill would require a complainant to collect signatures equal to 10 percent of the school district’s population to trigger a review. The complainant would have to prove discrimination. The Department of Administration, not DPI, would make the final call on whether the school could retain the name. The bill also would invalidate all previous DPI orders forcing schools to drop their nicknames. In addition to Mukwonago, the agency has ordered Osseo-Fairchild to drop its Chieftains nickname and Berlin High School to ditch its Indians moniker. Democrats called the signature requirement an insurmountable hurdle to filing a complaint. In Mukwonago, for example, a complainant would need about 475 people to agree that “Indians” is offensive. They argued people who have experienced discrimination don’t need anyone else to validate their feelings. “This isn’t due process. This is no process,” Rep. Brett Hulsey, D-Madison, said. “This bill is just another racial insult.”

Milroy said the Assembly is debating the bill because Mukwonago feels entitled to a “ridiculous caricature of a supposed American Indian.” Republicans control the Assembly 57-39, making passage all but certain. The final vote was 52-41. Nass released a statement after the vote declaring victory. “We reformed a flawed politically correct law by replacing it with a fair process to address any potential inappropriate use of Indian logos, mascots and team names,” he said. “No longer will the mere existence of an Indian logo, mascot and team name automatically be construed as a violation of state law.” Republicans control the Senate 18-15, making passage likely in that chamber. Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, initially announced he planned to convene on Wednesday morning to take up the bill. But his spokesman later sent an email to reporters saying the chamber would take up the measure in November. Fitzgerald said in a telephone interview Democrats wouldn’t give him the two-thirds vote he would have needed to bring the bill up on Wednesday. Republican Gov. Scott Walker hasn’t taken a position on the measure yet. His spokesman didn’t immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment Tuesday evening.

U of Ill., chief group reach trademark settlement

URBANA, Ill. (AP) – A deal reached this week between the University of Illinois and a group dedicated to honoring the university’s former mascot, Chief Illiniwek, bars the organization from most uses of the symbol’s name and official logo. The university threatened legal action in 2010 against the Honor the Chief Society over events it held where someone dressed up and performed as the chief. Those performances and memorabilia sold under the Chief Illiniwek name on the group’s website violated university trademarks, the university said. The university stopped using the mascot in 2007 under NCAA pressure. The deal makes clear what is permissible and what isn’t, university

spokeswoman Robin Kaler said Oct. 16. “I think the most important thing is that it helps everyone involved better understand where the lines are,” she told The News-Gazette in Champaign. Society co-founder Roger Huddleston said he’s relieved to have the settlement finalized. “It doesn’t prevent us from going ahead and taking sides and being pro-Chief. It doesn’t take anything away from teaching about the history of the Illiniwek tradition,” he said. Under the deal, Honor the Chief can still hold events that include “a performance in the nature of a choreographed tribute to the dance” performed by the chief mascot. But the group has to put disclaimer on

its website and promotional materials making clear it isn’t connected to the university, can’t use the name Chief Illiniwek or the trademarked image and can’t refer to anyone as the next Chief Illiniwek. The group held several “The Next Dance” events in which someone dressed as the chief danced for fans. The university was under NCAA sanctions over the chief when it dropped the mascot in 2007. Some American Indians and others claimed the chief was a demeaning portrayal of Native American culture. Chief fans maintained the costumed portrayal and dances performed at sports events and elsewhere were a respectful tribute. The university’s teams are still called the Fighting Illini but no mascot has been chosen to replace the chief.

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Tribal chairman suspends 2 councilmen

KALISPELL, Mont. (AP) – The chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council suspended two councilmen – a state senator who faces a DUI charge and another on allegations of improper conduct on a recent trip to Washington, D.C. – after the business council did not act on his request for a formal vote on the suspensions.

Chairman Willie Sharp Jr., tells the Flathead Beacon he suspended Sen. Shannon Augare, D-Browning, and Leonard Guardipee on Thursday morning

in his role as head of personnel for the tribe.

He says he’s not sure if the suspensions are legal, but says it is what the people wanted.

“I’m in uncharted waters,” Sharp said. But “I’m trying to do what’s right for the people.”

Last week, Sharp sent Augure a letter asking him to step down until his legal matters were sorted out. Augare replied that he would not unless a majority of the council members voted him out.

The Blackfeet Tribal Business

Council issued a statement Thursday saying the full board does not consider the two suspended.

Augare is charged with misdemeanor counts of drunken driving, reckless driving and obstruction of a peace officer. He is accused of fleeing a Glacier County sheriff’s deputy who had pulled him over in May on U.S. Highway 2 on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

He is being prosecuted in federal court after Blackfeet chief prosecutor Carl Pepion referred

the case to the U.S. attorney’s office. His trial is set for Nov. 7.

Sharp said Guardipee was suspended for his actions on a recent tribal business trip.

“I find it disturbing that someone would go on a trip with tribal money but not perform his duties,” Sharp said.

Augare did not return phone messages from the newspaper seeking comment and his attorney’s phone rang unanswered.

8 men vying to become next Hopi Tribal leader

HOTEVILLA, Ariz. (AP) – Eight men are vying to become the next leader of the Hopi Tribe.

The tribe released the list of candidates Thursday, the day after petitions were due.

Hopi Chairman Le Roy Shingoitewa is seeking another term. His competitors include Vice Chairman Herman Honanie, former chief of staff Micah Loma’omvaya, former vice chairmen Todd Honyaoama Sr. and Caleb Johnson.

The primary election is set for Nov. 6. The top two vote-getters will move on to the general election on Nov. 20.

Four people are running for the vice chairman’s post.

About 8,000 Hopis live among 12 villages at three mesas in northern Arizona. Not all villages send representatives to the Tribal Council but maintain their own forms of government, some more progressive than others.

APPEAL

Continued from Page 1

affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, did not return phone calls and emails requesting comment. However, in an interview published in the Oct. 15 edition of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune, the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration’s tribal newspaper, Cecilia said her client is considering having the legislative primary on the Nov. 5 ballot with a special run-off after that if needed.

Meanwhile, Minervia Rodriquez, a member of the election commission affiliated with the Leslie Wandrie-Harjo administration, confirmed Friday morning that an emergency restraining order had been taken out against the other claimant

election commission in an effort to stop it from moving forward with conducting a run-off election next month.

The Wandrie-Harjo election commission has already certified winners in four of the five races. According to paid advertisements published in the Watonga Republican, Marlin Hawk, Fiona Whiteskunk and Michael Kodaseet all ran unopposed for three of the four council seats. Flyingman and Harris were the only executive branch candidates to file with that commission. Results for the fifth seat, Arapaho District No. 2, have not been disclosed.

The tribes’ constitution calls for the winners to be sworn in on the first Saturday in January after the election, which is Jan. 4, 2014.

RECOVERY

Continued from Page 1

Recovery Center, 1625 W. Carson St., on the South Shore. Onala provides a social home for people in recovery and space for sobriety meetings.

Although AA is the most established program, said Jean Coyne, prevention and intervention supervisor with Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, she added, “There’s no one size that fits all.”

“There are so many ways in which people have a shot at remaining sober,” said Corrie Wright, network administrator and executive assistant at The Center of Spirituality in 12 Step Recovery in Homewood. “We try to get people into services that have spirituality.”

Before each talking circle, participants walk clockwise around the altar, which includes a drum and a feather.

“We ask them to go clockwise to help them get back into the flow of life,” Smith said.

He begins the session with a prayer to the Great Father. Then a Navajo participant drums and sings. A purification ceremony follows. Smith walks around the circle carrying the smoking bowl of sage, sweet grass and cedar. Participants who accept the smoke wave it four times each toward their heads and their hearts.

The ritual is meant “to open our minds and our hearts, to let go of our negativity,” Smith said. “The longest journey a human being must make is from his head to his heart.”

He runs the sessions with Mike Sallows, a homeless outreach and support employee for Pittsburgh Mercy Health System’s Operation Safety Net. Sallows’ participation in Yellowcorn is unrelated to his employment, but he has introduced the circle to homeless clients.

Treatment facilities and behavioral health services also refer to Yellowcorn, which operates on voluntary donations and does not dispense or get federal benefits for

treatment.

“If this is purely a support group, there is no need for licensing or accreditation,” Bob Adamson, senior director of Behavioral Health Services for the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, wrote in an email. “Support programs are important adjuncts to treatment services that greatly assist with someone’s recovery.”

Melissa Collins, an outpatient therapist at Gateway Green Tree, said Yellowcorn “has been bringing meetings to our patients and is a great asset to our organization.”

Jamie McLaughlin, a social worker at Allegheny General Hospital’s Positive Health Clinic, said she referred one patient “who asked if there was an AA meeting for Native Americans. The experience has been very positive. Dave also has been very helpful in getting other patients to AA meetings (not his own) and into housing.”

Smith said he hopes to reach more Native Americans but welcomes anyone. Most people in the talking circles are not of Indian blood.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in 2010 that about 7,000 of Allegheny County’s 1.2 million people identify at least partially as Native American. Three people in a recent talking circle besides Smith identified as such.

One, Terry, said he was homeless and met Sallows from Operation Safety Net.

“We used to talk,” he said, “and while AA is good, as a Native American, we have a different way of dealing with problems.”

Several people not of Indian blood said they have found a bond in the talking circles. All last names are withheld in AA’s tradition of anonymity.

Debbie said she met Smith three years ago at an AA meeting at Onala.

“He told me about his talking circles and I started going,” she said. “I don’t want to say anything against any process that works for people, but I like the spiritual aspect of this. I was so afraid of step four -- facing the people

I had hurt -- but something happened to me in this group. I realized I was denying the world the life that was me.”

Diane said she had always been her own worst enemy and hated herself before realizing “what a jerk I was. I was killing myself and there are people who are sick who wish to live. The only group that ever helped me was this one.”

Kevin attended AA meetings in prison but said he started going to a Native American group meeting. Now living in a halfway house, he said he chose the talking circle in part because people are attentive.

“I’ve been to some other meetings where half the people were (looking at) their phones. In this circle, at first, I got the feeling people thought I was only there to get a paper signed” as required by court order. “But then they started asking me how I was doing.”

Before starting Yellowcorn, Smith introduced the Native American spiritual path toward healing in prisons.

“What I am trying to do for my people I want to do for all people,” he said. “We are all connected and learn from each other. But I realized the severity of the (addiction) problem among Indians. It has taken us away from our cultures and traditions.

“The day I surrendered (to sobriety), I had gotten sick and tired of feeling sick and tired and disrespecting my children,” he said. “I was living in York, and I got on a bus to Wilkes-Barre” and checked into a rehab facility near his grandfather’s cabin.

He said Pittsburgh attracted him because it is “a spiritually centered place” owing in part to the three rivers. “When I got here, I knew my mission was to start a Native recovery service. I believe this is a good place to grow.”

– www.post-gazette.com

NCAI

Continued from Page 1

absences and promises of listening sessions prior to the White House’s tribal leaders summit next month. The lone speaker from the federal government, Sen. Mark Begich (R-Alaska) joined the convention via video conference the afternoon after the shutdown ended.

Despite the lack of representation from the federal government, the show went on with sessions on a variety of topics tied to tribal sovereignty, including economic development, agricultural sustainability, emergency management, the Affordable Care Act, the implementation of the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, language preservation and the status of recent and pending Indian law cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl and Michigan vs. Bay Millis Indian Community.

“We’re done with being treated as second class citizens,” Narragansett Tribal Council member Randy Noka said. “We’re done with our women and children being attacked. The time for us to step up has long since passed.”

That mindset led delegates from 159 tribes general assembly to adopt resolutions in support of full federal funding for tribal domestic violence coalitions, judicial systems, schools and colleges, along with a call for the Department of Justice to investigate states’ non-compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

“It might not be your tribe today, but it may very well be your tribe tomorrow,” Noka said. “I am going to do everything I can to protect our sovereignty, but I can’t do it alone. It is our fight and failure is not an option.

“We have to have our hearts, spirits and minds involved to meet the challenge.”

Leading the efforts to meet that challenge will be a new slate of NCAI executive officers, thanks in part to term limits.

Chickasaw Nation lieutenant governor Jefferson Keel, NCAI’s president, and Jamestown S’Kallam Tribe chairman Ron Allen, NCAI’s treasurer, both stepped down at the conference’s end after serving the maximum number of years allowed under the organization’s bylaws.

With none of the four presidential candidates earning the required 50 percent of the votes plus one, the top two finishers, former NCAI president and outgoing Southwest regional Vice President Joe Garcia and Swinomish Tribal Community chairman Brian Cladoosby, advanced to a run-off over Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and outgoing NCAI First Vice President Juana Majal-Dixon. In the second round of voting Thursday afternoon, Cladoosby edged out Garcia by 25 votes.

“I can’t tell you how honored I am,” Cladoosby said. “I will not let you down.”

Dennis Walsh, a council member for the Colorado River Indian Tribes, ran unopposed for treasurer after campaigning for the position for two years.

Michael Finley, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation’s business committee, was elected unopposed as the organization’s first vice president.

Robert Shepherd, chairman of South Dakota’s Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, defeated incumbent Ed Thomas for the position of recording secretary.

Along with four new executive officers, each of the organization’s 12 regions – one for each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regional office service areas -- elected its vice president for the next two years.

Among those voted into office Thursday afternoon was Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief Joe Crittenden, who was elected to a second term as Eastern Oklahoma regional vice president, with John Berrey, chairman of the Quapaw Tribe, selected as the alternate.

Steve Smith, a member of the Kiowa Business Committee, was elected Southern Plains regional vice president, succeeding Sac and Fox Principal Chief George Thurman.



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COMMENTARY

Affordable Care Act and American Indian Exemptions



CARA COWAN WATTS

Federally-recognized American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have options under the Affordable Care Act including an exemption from the new health care laws.

The Health Insurance Marketplace at healthcare.gov offers AI/AN private health plans bought through the Marketplace, Medicaid or the Children's Health

Insurance Program (CHIP). Indian Health Service (IHS.gov) is encouraging all AI/ANs to enroll, so they are adequately covered for their health care needs.

If you buy private insurance in the Health Insurance Marketplace, you will not have to pay out-of-pocket costs like deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance if your income is up to around \$70,650 for a family of 4 in 2013.

You may enroll in Marketplace health insurance any month, not just during the yearly open enrollment period.

If you are an AI/AN, you have special cost and eligibility rules for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which make it easier to qualify for these programs.

If you enroll in a private health insurance plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace, you may continue receiving services from the Indian Health Service such as Claremore Indian Hospital, Tribal health programs such as CN Vinita or Salina Clinics or urban Indian health programs such as the Tulsa Indian Clinic.

If you can afford health insurance but choose not to buy it, you must pay a fee known as the individual shared responsibility payment if you do not qualify for an exemption such as AI/AN citizenship.

The fee in 2014 is 1% of your yearly income or \$95 per person for the year, whichever is higher. The fee increases every year. In 2016 it is 2.5% of income or \$695 per person, whichever

is higher.

In 2014 the payment for uninsured children is \$47.50 per child. The most a family would have to pay in 2014 is \$285.

You make the payment when you file your 2014 taxes, which are due in April 2015.

To qualify for an exemption as an AI/AN, you need to have your citizenship cards ready for the IRS before you file your taxes in April 2014.

Cherokee Nation citizens should have their CDIB (white card) and Tribal citizenship (blue card) current, accessible and legible for copying prior to their taxes being due. The new Tribal Administration wait times for citizenship cards has increased from eight months to more than two years for new citizenship applications and an unknown

time for replacement cards.

If you need a replacement card(s) or citizenship for your children or grandchildren, act immediately. Otherwise, you will not have the documentation the IRS requires for exemptions from the Affordable Care Act at tax time.

For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

The ACA and IHS are complicated. Do not just take this brief column as the final word. Consult the websites and your tax preparer. Ask questions.

Cara Cowan Watts is an elected Tribal legislator within the Cherokee Nation for portions of Rogers and Tulsa Counties. She may be emailed at cara@caracowan.com or written to at P.O. Box 2922, Claremore, OK 74018.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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News from the crossroads of Indian Country

— MEMBER —



In my newspaper, we use the 'R-Word' instead of 'Redskins'



TIM GIANO

One of the first, if not the only, sports newscaster who decided not to use the word "Redskin" in his nightly newscast worked for KOTA-TV in Rapid City and his name was Bob Laskowski.

Bob was having lunch one day many years ago in the Big Boy Restaurant in Mitchell when I, then publisher of the Lakota Times, walked in the door on my way back from Brookings. I joined Bob and we talked about the use of Indians as mascots for America's fun and games for more than an hour. Bob thought about all he had heard from me that day and

when he got back to Rapid City he decided he would not say "Redskins" anymore, but would simply say the NFL team from Washington.

No other sports caster or newspaper reporter in the entire state of South Dakota caught on to Bob's noble gesture and they continue to this day to use the offensive "Redskin" word in their newspapers, radio and television sports reports.

On page 6 of this issue of Native Sun News is an article that I wrote for Newsweek Magazine 21 years ago. I often used analogies to make my point. For example I would ask, "What if a white man walked into a room filled with Lakota men and said 'How are all you redskins doing?'" I also spoke out against the use of the word "squaw" to describe an Indian woman. I once wrote, "If you think Indian women do not object to the word squaw walk up to an Indian woman sometime and say 'hello, squaw' and see if you don't get your face slapped."

I wrote my first column about mascots in 1982 and along with Susanne Harjo and Michael Haney, I appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show to talk about mascots particularly the use of the word "Redskin." That was in 1991. It was the first time Indian mascots had been discussed on a national television show.

My dander about mascots was raised when I saw a game on national television with the Washington team. At half time they chased a pig painted red with a headband stuffed with feathers out on the field. I wrote, "What if they had taken a pig and painted it black and stuck an Afro wig on its head?" Of course the outrage among African Americans would have gone viral. I also took great exception to teams like the Kansas City Chiefs and the Atlanta Braves using a chant straight out of a Grade B Western movie pretending it was an Indian chant. The chanters usually were painted up as Indians

and they did the infamous "tomahawk chop."

What if the team was called the "Blackskins" and the fans painted their faces black put on Afro wigs and started to beat drums and wave spears in the air? It certainly would not be overlooked by the national media, a media that totally ignores the same insult every Sunday whenever Indians are concerned.

My point is that the name Braves, Warriors, and Chiefs may not be so bad in and of themselves, but the actions the fanatical fans use to play out the names is too often demeaning and insulting to Native Americans. The lone Indian woman who stood her ground while a student at the University of Illinois against the cartoonish Chief Illiniwek mascot, Charlene Teters, receives little or no credit for all of her efforts, efforts that often got her a club alongside of her head, caused her to duck burning cigarette butts flipped at her, and vulgar insults as she

stood in front of the stadium fighting against the use of Indians as mascots. She will always have my respect and admiration for her courage and dedication.

It's time all Native Americans stood together as one and forced those teams that use Indians as mascots to abandon some of their antics and insults they have built around their mascots and all of us should take particular umbrage at a team that would use the color of a people's skin as a mascot for their fun and games. Vernon Bellecourt once carried a sign containing a comment I made at the end of one of my many columns about mascots, at a Cleveland Indians baseball game: The sign read "We are human beings and not mascots for America's fun and games."

Tim Giago is the publisher of Native Sun News and may be reached at editor@nsweekly.com. Copyright permission by Native Sun News

The viewpoints expressed in columns and letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinion or viewpoint of the Native American Times publisher or staff. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to editor@nativetimes.com (preferred) or mailed to P.O. Box 411, Tahlequah, Okla. 74465. To be published, we require you provide your name, tribal affiliation, a phone number (which will not be published) and city of residence for verification. Please keep your letter under 300 words and maintain a civil tone. Letters will be published as space is available.

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PUBLIC BID NOTICE

Published in the Native American Times, the weeks of October 14-28, Invitation to Bid The Osage Nation, will receive bids for trade construction on the Osage Nation Phase I Development located in Pawhuska, OK. Bids will be received at Osage Nation Purchasing Office, 627 Grandview Avenue Pawhuska, Oklahoma, 74056 on or before 10:00 A.M. on November 8, 2013 attn. Tammy Leeper. Bid documents are available for viewing at The Osage Nation Purchasing Office at 627 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056 and at The PENTA Building Group 3220 S. Peoria, Suite 101, Tulsa, OK 74105. Bid documents can be electronically obtained through The PENTA Building Group by contacting Yvette Dickinson at yddickinson@pentabldggroup.com or purchased through ARC Document Solutions at 7022 E. 41st St, Tulsa, OK 74145 (918) 663-8100. Document Sets w/ specifications are \$282 Half Size \$169. Documents are also on file at the Dodge Plan Room. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all formalities. Osage Preference will be applied in award of the contract in compliance with the Osage Nation Competitive Bidding Act.

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RiverSpirit announces plans to ‘change the view’

LENZY KREHBIEL-
BURTON
Native Times

TULSA, Okla. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will have room for more of singer Jimmy Buffet’s ‘Parrot Head’ fans than originally planned in the near future. After unveiling an agreement earlier this year between Buffet’s Margaritaville franchise and RiverSpirit Casino, tribal and local officials announced Tuesday afternoon at a ground-breaking ceremony that the expansion tied to the overhaul will be bigger than first disclosed. Originally billed as a \$250 million expansion with a 22-story hotel, the project now calls for a 26-story hotel with 483 rooms, an additional 50,000 square feet of gaming space, a 30,000 square foot convention center, a 2,500-

seat theater, a new 1,500-car parking garage, a resort spa and several restaurants, including Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville and a “5 O’Clock Somewhere Bar.” Upon completion, the casino will be more than twice the size of the existing facility at 81st and Riverside. The expansion will also include a new jogging and biking trail along Riverside Drive in south Tulsa, replacing a portion of an already existing path that will be impacted by the construction. With the additional amenities, the estimated cost is now pegged at \$335 million. “The nation made a decision 10 years ago to make a significant investment in the banks of the Arkansas in Tulsa,” Principal Chief George Tiger said. “Today’s announcement is another



Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials and Tulsa city officials gathered Oct. 15 to announce a welcome addition to the tribe’s flagship gaming property located on the Arkansas River - an even larger expansion than what was announced earlier this year.

game-changer.” Slated to take between 18 and 24 months to complete, the construction alone is expected to create 1,800 jobs and have an estimated impact of more than \$300

million. Once finished, the new casino will generate an additional 800 jobs and have an annual economic impact of \$135 million on the Tulsa area. With expansion plans

also calling for a riverfront entertainment area, officials at the press conference were optimistic that the project will have another impact on Tulsa beyond jobs and payroll dollars.

“If this isn’t a brilliant PR campaign by the [Muscogee (Creek) Nation] to bring water to the river, I don’t know what is,” Margaritaville CEO John Cohan said. “I would say, Mr. Mayor, that we bring the palm trees and the sand, but we’re missing one key ingredient here and that would be the water.” As of Wednesday, the U.S. Geological Survey recorded the Arkansas River’s depth at about four feet in Tulsa, a figure that could increase with additional low water dams in the area. The city has 11 miles of river shoreline within its limits. “I assure you that with a \$335 million investment, there will be water in the (Arkansas) river,” Mayor Dewey Bartlett said.

Gala to raise money for OKC clinic pharmacy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Traditional Native American dancing and a painting exhibition will be the featured events at an event next month to raise money for a new pharmacy at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. This is the ninth year for the Red Feather Gala, which raises money each year for the clinic. This year’s gala will be held Nov. 9 in the Cox Convention Center.

Funds from the event will go toward building a new 7,000-square-foot pharmacy near the clinic. It’s expected to provide more than 400,000 prescriptions to clinic patients each year. Former Attorney General Drew Edmondson and his wife Linda Edmondson will be honored at the event for their contributions to Native Americans in Oklahoma.

Children’s Home hosting fry bread cook off

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – The Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee will host a fry bread cook off from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 2, at the Muscogee Creek Nation Casino at 3420 W. Peak Boulevard. Proceeds will benefit the children’s home, which provides a safe, nurturing environment, spiritual foundation, and cultural experience to Native American Children in crisis. For nearly 100 years the home has filled a need of

caring for Indian Children who are either orphaned or are deprived of normal family care for various reasons. Fry break cooks are challenged to show off their fry bread-making skills to win bragging rights and cash prizes. The entry fee is \$25, and each cook must create a cook name for the competition like “Fry Bread Diva” or “Dough Girl.” All names must be “G-rated,” said organizers. All bread must be made

and cooked on site. For the outdoors competition, cooks must provide their own shelter, ingredients, cookers, propane, skillets, tables, chairs and water. There will be no electricity available for the competitors. The winner will receive a \$150 cash prize and be crowned Miss Fry Bread 2013. He or she also will be awarded a sash, tiara and an iron skillet. Cash prizes also will be awarded for the People’s Choice Bread and to the cook that raises the

most money for the Murrow Indian Children’s Home. Raffles, a cakewalk, concessions and vendors also will be a part of the event, and hot, fresh fry bread will be available for purchase all day. Everyone is welcome, and there is no admission fee. For more information or to reserve concession or vendor space, call Shari Kamp at 918-682-2586. For rules and entry forms, contact Kathy Old Crow at 214-704-7447.



EVENTS

<p>*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.</p> <p>THIRD THURSDAY American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci.Phillips@naturalevolution.com</p> <p>EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City</p> <p>EVERY 2nd SATURDAY Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org</p> <p>EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City</p> <p>YOUTH COUNCIL The Native Nations Youth</p>	<p>Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org</p> <p>THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014 Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.</p> <p>OCTOBER 21-23 2013 Indian Education Summit, National Center for Employee Development (NCED) Conference Center & Hotel, 2801 East Hwy 9, Norman, OK. Join us to address a variety of culturally relevant educational issues and work to improve opportunities and outcomes for all Native American students. For more information: http://aii.ou.edu/conferencetrainings/2013-indian-education-summit/.</p> <p>OCTOBER 26 Bacone Fall Pow Wow 2013 Noon - 11 P.M. at Muskogee Civic Center, W. Okmulgee & 5th Street Muskogee. Contest Powwow, free admission. All Princesses, Drums, Singers and Dancers</p>	<p>invited. Vendor Info: Asa Lewis 918-360-0057 or lewis@bacone.edu PW Info: Connie Falleaf 918-687-3299 or falleafc@bacone.edu Like us on Facebook!</p> <p>OCTOBER 26 Fall Powwow, Payne County Fairgrounds, Stillwater, OK. Schedule: 12:00 PM Gourd Dance, 4:30 PM Supper Break, 5:30 PM Gourd Dance, 6:30 PM Grand Entry, All Contests, 11:00 PM Closing. Contact Twauna Williams, (405) 744-0401.</p> <p>OCTOBER 26 Family Fun Day sponsored by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, CPN Festival Grounds, North & South Reunion Halls, 1700 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK. All food and activities are FREE while supplies last. Arts & Crafts, food and other vendors. Supported by the IHS Prevention Grant for National Domestic Violence Awareness month. For more information: Amanda Chapman, 405-275-3176 or amanda.chapman@potawatomi.org.</p> <p>OCTOBER 26 Strut Your Mutt – Tulsa Style Dog Show benefit for the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals at OSU-CHS’ Lesion Field from noon to 4 p.m. The family event features music, food, vendors, door prizes, a silent auction and \$25 microchipping for pets. Entry fees are \$15 for the</p>	<p>first dog and \$10 for each additional dog. Prizes awarded in several categories including best costume. Info email: Leandra.Figueroa@okstate.edu.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 2 Fry bread cook off benefit for Murrow Indian Children’s Home, 9am-4pm at Muscogee Creek Nation Casino, 3420 W. Peak Blvd., Muskogee. \$25 to compete. Rules and entry forms contact Kathy Old Crow, 214-704-7447. Free to the public to attend.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 7 Oklahoma Military Connection Hiring Event, 10:30 am- 12 pm military related only, 12 pm - 2:30 pm open to all job seekers. Meridian Technology Center, Industrial Development Center, Stillwater, Okla. More info visit www.OkMilitaryConnection.com or call Levi Valdois, CareerTech for Vets at 405-743-5573</p> <p>NOVEMBER 9 Red Feather Gala, hosted by the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Proceeds will go towards construction of a new 7,000 square-foot pharmacy at the main clinic. For more information and the attendance form: http://www.okcic.com/announcements/red-feather-gala-sponsorship/.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 9 Descendants of Freedmen</p>	<p>Association and African Indians Foundation 7th annual Treaty Celebration Conference, Langston University Campus, 4205 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City. For more information on becoming a vendor or getting tickets, visit www.freedmen.org or www.freedmen5tribes.com. You may also call 405-227-9810.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 15 Cmdr. John B. Herrington (Chickasaw), the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space, to speak at Comanche Nation College, James Cox Auditorium, 1608 SW 9th St., Lawton, OK. 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. For more information: 580-591-0203 or 580-353-7075.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 15 White Eagle Health Fair at the White Eagle Cultural Center in Ponca City. Run/Walk begins at 8am, booth viewing starts 9am to 12noon. Lunch will be provided. Contact info: 580-765-2501 xt. 2232, Jo Ann Springerwater.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 16 Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church annual Native Flair arts & crafts event, 10:30am-5pm, 1901 N College, Tulsa. Info call 918-834-1956 or 918-230-3181.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 29-30 Choctaw Nation Powwow, Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant.</p>
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Inside this issue:

- Orcas escort artifacts: Coincidence or ?
- Film maker brings the parnormal to screen
- Hope runners earn 23 titles in a row



NATIVE TIMES

Tribes make case for public lands during hearing

BOISE, Idaho (AP) – Leaders of Native American tribes made a historical and cultural case on Oct. 28 that they should be first in line if any of Idaho’s 32 million acres of federal public lands are transferred to state control.

Tribal leaders were one of several interest groups that testified before the Legislature’s Federal Lands Interim Committee meeting, which is studying the pros and cons of a resolution approved by lawmakers earlier this year demanding that the federal government cede most of the public land in Idaho to state control. The committee is expected to issue a report to the Legislature in 2015.

Leaders of three Idaho tribes voiced opposition to the proposal and said keeping those lands under federal ownership prevents any state effort to sell acreage for revenue or to companies seeking to extract resources. Tribal leaders also pointed to treaty rights guaranteeing off-reservation fishing hunting rights on the unoccupied lands of the United States.

“You’ve got to understand that when we made that treaty, it means that we would have that opportunity to continue

See LANDS on Page 4



Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D.

Bill aims to protect Native children

DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – U.S. senators from North Dakota and Alaska introduced a bill Oct. 30 that would establish a commission to study the challenges facing Native American children and propose ways of improving their welfare.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., said more needs to be done to offer a better

See BILL on Page 4

LOVE SHOULDN’T HURT



LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON | NATIVETIMES

More than 75 men, women and children walked more than a mile Friday near Ponca City High School as part of the second annual Six Nations Walk Against Domestic Violence.

Awareness walk held in memory of slain tribal domestic violence coordinator

■ Janett Reyna’s alleged killer, Luis Octavio Frias, is still on the run and Reyna’s three children are still in protective custody with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PONCA CITY, Okla. – Love should not hurt.

Carrying signs to that effect, along with enlarged photos of victims and purple helium-filled balloons, more than 75 men, women and children walked more than a mile Friday

near Ponca City High School as part of the second annual Six Nations Walk Against Domestic Violence.

“Today we are naming abuse for what it is,” Pawnee Nation victims advocate Chelsea Baldwin said. “We are here to name and shame it.”

Co-sponsored by the Kaw Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Osage Nation, Pawnee Nation, Ponca

Tribe and Tonkawa Tribe, the walk relocated this year to Pioneer Park from Standing Bear Park and Cultural Museum. Ponca City is within the jurisdictional areas of the Osage Nation and the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. The other four co-host tribes are all headquartered

See WALK on Page 7

C&A Court Justice: ‘It may be necessary to start all over again’

One faction moves forward with general election, other side takes out emergency restraining order to stop it, and two candidates are contesting primary results

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Despite two pending court challenges and one faction taking out an emergency restraining order, Cheyenne and Arapaho voters are still scheduled to go back to the polls Nov. 5.

Based off of primary results released Oct. 10 by the election commission affiliated with the Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, Eddie Hamilton and Cornell Sankey will face Roberta Hamilton and Jerry Levi in Tuesday’s general election. Prairie Chief-Boswell and her running mate, Connie Yellowman-Hart, finished third by more than 100 votes.

Due to a number of incorrect ballots being distributed last month, Tuesday’s election will also serve as a primary for three legislative races. Alan Fletcher, Ramona Tallbear and George Fletcher are all seeking the

seat from Cheyenne District No. 2, which includes the communities of Calumet, El Reno and Kingfisher. Arapaho District No. 2, which covers the same geographical area as Cheyenne District No. 2, has three candidates: Dale Hamilton, Michael Martin and Christine Morton. Jane Nightwalker and Edward Mosqueda will square off for the legislative seat from Arapaho District No. 1, which includes Longdale, Seiling and Watonga.

Kyle Orange was the only Cheyenne District No. 4 candidate to file with the Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission and has been declared the winner by default.

The Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission plans to conduct a run-off election on Dec. 17 for the top two finishers in Cheyenne District No. 2 and Arapaho District No. 2. The Tribes’ constitution calls for the winners to be sworn in on the

first Saturday in January after the election, which is Jan. 4, 2014.

The other claimant election commission, which is affiliated with the Leslie Wandrie-Harjo administration, has already certified winners in Cheyenne District No. 2, Arapaho District No. 2 and Cheyenne District No. 4. It has not released the figures for Arapaho District No. 1.

The Wandrie-Harjo affiliated commission has taken out an emergency restraining order in an effort to stop Tuesday’s election. Michelle Cecilia, legal counsel for the election commission affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration, did not return phone calls and emails requesting comment.

Meanwhile, both former governor and current candidate

See COURT on Page 4

Osage Inquiry Committee recommends removal of Chief

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – The Osage Nation Congress will hold a special session Nov. 14 to consider whether to hold a removal trial for Principal Chief John Red Eagle as recommended by a committee.

On Oct. 28, the Osage Congress’ Select Committee of Inquiry issued a report on 15 allegations made against Red Eagle, finding enough evidence to support six counts and make two recommendations for Congress to consider motions for Red Eagle’s potential removal on the grounds of malfeasance of office, disregard of constitutional duties, disregard for the oath of office, arrogation of power, abuse of the government process and undermining the integrity of his



John Red Eagle, Osage Nation Chief

office.

Among the counts found to have sufficient evidence for the removal recommendations:

- Interfering with an investigation of the Osage Nation Attorney General’s office on May 31, 2013.
- Attempting to have the aforementioned attorney

See OSAGE on Page 3

VOTING

Continued from Page 1

voting or late registration.

After a now-retired judge declined to intervene before the 2012 election, the 16 Indian plaintiffs appealed.

But a three-judge appeals panel wrote in a Wednesday opinion that the emergency injunction request by the Indians is now moot. They sent the case back to U.S. District Court in Montana for a decision on future elections.

The U.S. Justice Department has sided with the plaintiffs, alleging that retired U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull overlooked the fact that some Indians are denied equal access to voting because they can't afford to travel up to 150 miles to county courthouses.

Cebull since has retired after forwarding an email with a racist joke about President Barack Obama.

One of the organizers of the lawsuit, Blackfeet tribal member Tom Rodgers, who is also a lobbyist in Washington, D.C., said he hoped county officials will voluntarily choose to set up the satellite offices rather than continue to contest the case.

The lead plaintiff in the case is Mark Wandering Medicine, whose great-grandfather helped defeat Col. George Armstrong Custer and the U.S. 7th Cavalry at the Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana. He is opposed in the lawsuit by officials including Rosebud County elections clerk Geraldine Custer, whose husband is the general's descendant.

Custer said no decision has been made in Rosebud County regarding a satellite voting office for the upcoming election. She said the hesitation to establish such an office on the Northern Cheyenne reservation stemmed primarily from logistical issues, such as keeping ballot numbers consistent. She pointed out that residents of remote communities not on the reservation also must travel long distances to reach the courthouse.

No counties in Montana have satellite voting offices, said attorney Sara Frankenstein, who represents the defendants, including officials from Rosebud, Big Horn and Blaine counties and Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.

Frankenstein said that Montana law requires ballots to be issued chronologically, which she described as a "major obstacle" to having them issued in both a county courthouse and a satellite office.



A pair of orca whales swim in view of a state ferry crossing from Bainbridge Island toward Seattle in the Puget Sound on Oct. 29. The whales were among about 20 or more, believed to be from resident pods, seen traveling through the passage.

ELAINE THOMPSON | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coincidence or something else? Orcas circle ferry as it carries Native artifacts to ancestral home

DOUG ESSER
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) – A large pod of orcas swam around a Washington state ferry that was carrying tribal artifacts to a new museum at the ancestral home of Chief Seattle, and some people think it was more than a coincidence.

Killer whales have been thrilling whale watchers this week in Puget Sound, according to the Orca Network, which tracks sightings.

But they were especially exciting Tuesday when nearly three-dozen orcas surrounded the ferry from Seattle as it approached the terminal on Bainbridge Island. On board were officials from The Burke Museum in Seattle who were moving ancient artifacts to the Suquamish Museum.

The artifacts were dug up nearly 60 years ago from the site of the Old Man House, the winter village for the Suquamish

tribe and home of Chief Sealth, also known as Chief Seattle. The Burke, a natural history museum on the University of Washington campus, is known for Northwest Coast and Alaska Native art.

Also on board the state ferry was Suquamish Tribal Chairman Leonard Forsman who happened to be returning from an unrelated event. As the ferry slowed near the terminal, it was surrounded by the orcas, Forsman said Wednesday.

"They were pretty happily splashing around, flipping their tails in the water," he said. "We believe they were welcoming the artifacts home as they made their way back from Seattle, back to the reservation."

The killer whales have been in Puget Sound feeding on a large run of chum salmon, he said.

"We believe the orcas took a little break from their fishing to swim by the ferry, to basically put a blessing on what we were on that day," he said.

Forsman believes there's a spiritual tie between the tribe and the orcas. "They are fishermen like we are," he said.

It was an auspicious arrival for about 500 artifacts that The Burke Museum had held for nearly 60 years, Suquamish Museum Director Janet Smoak said.

They include tools, decorative items and bits of bone and rock that date back 2,000 years.

The Old Man House – the largest known longhouse on the Salish Sea – was located at Suquamish on the shore of Agate Passage, about 13 miles northwest of Seattle. Chief Sealth, for whom Seattle is named, is buried there.

The longhouse was burned down by the U.S. government in the late 1800s. The artifacts were collected by a University of Washington archaeological investigation in the 1950s, according to the Burke museum.

In 2012, the tribe completed its

new museum, which includes a climate controlled environment. The artifacts will be displayed to illustrate Suquamish culture in an exhibit called Ancient Shores Changing Tides.

Everyone was talking about the orcas at the Tuesday museum blessing ceremony and feast, Smoak said.

"Everyone was really excited and moved by the event," she said.

The orcas, identified from their markings as members of the J and K pods, were seen this week along several routes between the Seattle area and the west side of Puget Sound, according to Howard Garrett of the Orca Network at Freeland.

He thought their intersection with the ferry carrying tribal artifacts was uncanny.

"I can't rule out somehow they could pick up on the mental energy that there is something special there. Or it could be a coincidence," he said. "I don't know."

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• JOB FAIR •

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_____ **NATIVE**

“The Peoria Tribe is immune from suit in state court,” the decision states. “Because the Peoria tribe and its entities did not expressly waive their

Attorneys representing the

"We want to make sure those serving alcohol are responsible. If

The Sheffers can't sue in tribal court because the state Gaming Compact places a one-year limit on claims in tribal court.

LISA SNELL
CHEROKEE

NEWBORN (LB) 31 11 11

The Oneidas asked Goodell and Snyder to “visit our homelands,” and sought an amendment to league bylaws to prohibit franchises from naming a team with any term that is a racial epithet. Halbritter says the dictionary defines the word ‘redskins’ precisely that way.

Since President Barack Obama recently said he would “think about changing” the name if he owned the



NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the Oneida Indian Nation is not a league sponsor. The Oneida Indian Nation sponsors the Bills and

– AP reporter Michael Hill contributed to this report.

Continued from Page 1

- Abuse of power by withholding at least one

The following afternoon,

“They have convened a Committee of Inquiry, which has recommended I face an impeachment trial. Such a trial would also make them a court, so they want to be the legislative branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch. Their basic accusation is that I have

“Contrary to the statements of the principal chief and his staff to the public through media outlets, the principal chief has been afforded significant due process throughout this investigation. Principal Chief Red Eagle had the opportunity to sit in and listen to each and every witness who gave testimony before this committee, and he had the right to have his legal counsel with him at all times, which are two rights not afforded before a grand jury. The principal chief was also invited to testify before the Select Committee of Inquiry and he did so of his


The report and its supporting documentation is available on the Osage Nation's temporary website, <http://osagenation.co/congress>, at the bottom of the page.

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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:


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Only Tom Daschle can save the Affordable Care Act



Notes from Indian Country
TIM GIANO
(*Nanwica Kciji*)

Everyday news about the Affordable Care Act gets worse.

President Barack Obama, in the early days of his Administration, before

he was kicked from pillar to post by the media and the Republicans, had the foresight to nominate former South Dakota Senator Tom Daschle to head up his attempts to bring affordable health care to all Americans.

Daschle had written the pivotal book on what was wrong with the health care system in America. His book; “Critical: What we can do about the health care crisis” could have been a precursor of the events that followed before and after the passing of the Affordable Care Act.

Daschle, unfortunately, had an error in his tax filings, an error he corrected as soon as it was discovered, but rather than take the man as

a whole and understand that his impact and understanding of health care in America would be vital to getting the Act off of the ground, Obama and his obsequious advisors, dumped Daschle like a rotten potato. What a terrible mistake!

The Republican Congress has tried 46 times to halt the Affordable Care Act to no avail. And just when the Act is put into action the failure of the Administration to find an equitable and secure method of allowing customers to sign on to the program came crashing down with every computer network glitch imaginable.

Kathleen Sebelius, the current Secretary of Health,

has been a dismal failure. Her apologies to the members of Congress for her repeated failures are ludicrous. An already beleaguered Act was put on the front pages of every newspaper in the Nation giving the Republicans all of the ammunition they needed to thoroughly eviscerate the Act.

The Affordable Care Act was already treading on shaky ground and to expose it to more criticism was totally unnecessary. The one person in America that should have been at the helm of the Act from the beginning was Tom Daschle. He drew up the plans, he knew the Act inside and out and to change horses in the

middle of the stream on an Act that needed life support from the outset put it in jeopardy that could have easily been avoided with the right person in charge.

Tom Daschle was thrown under the bus because of the overly cautious advisors to the president. If they thought they had avoided some form of scandal by tossing him aside they were completely wrong. By immediately taking care of the mistake made by his accountant on his taxes, Daschle righted the ship.

By turning their backs on the one man who could have seen the Affordable Act succeed from beginning to end the Obama

Administration put their own heads on the chopping block. This was a self-inflicted wound that forever placed in jeopardy an Act that could have brought affordable health care to 44 million Americans without health insurance.

We advise Obama and his staff to swallow what pride they have left and on bended knee, go back and beg Tom Daschle to pick up the pieces of the Act they shattered and scattered. Daschle may be able to salvage an Act that ignorance nearly destroyed.

Tim Giago, Publisher of Native Sun News, can be reached at editor@nsweekly.com

No debate necessary over Washington name

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

We can argue ad nauseam over whether nicknames such as “Braves” and “Chiefs” are slurs against Native Americans.

There are valid points on both sides of that issue.

But there is no gray area when it comes to the name of the NFL team in Washington.

That term is racist – pure and simple.

It’s time for the NFL to take a stand on something besides its bottom line, to take whatever steps are necessary to force the team’s petulant owner, Dan Snyder, to change that horrific name.

Rest assured, it will happen at some point. Washington’s NFL team is on the wrong side of history, not unlike those who argued for segregation or against gay rights.

But what about the team’s history? Doesn’t that account for something?

Nope.

Not at all (especially since the owner who came up with this name in the 1930s, George Preston Marshall, was clearly a racist).

“It is hard to justify keeping a team name purely for tradition when that name has ties to a time in our nation’s past when there was a bounty on each (offensive term deleted) an ‘Indian fighter’ brought in to a military outpost,” said Dennis Deninger, a longtime production executive at ESPN who now teaches sports communication at Syracuse University. “The time to break with that past is long overdue.”

Seriously, this should be an easy one for the NFL. Those who actually study the origins of our language and define what it all means are in complete agreement on this word. The Oxford Dictionaries describes it as “dated” and “offensive.” Merriam-Webster says the word “is very offensive and should be avoided.”

Snyder keeps insisting that he won’t be pressured into changing his team’s offensive

moniker.

In many ways, he reminds me of former Augusta National chairman Hootie Johnson, who famously said the home of the Masters would not be forced into accepting women members “at the point of the bayonet.”

Well, look what happened a couple of years ago. Augusta National doled out green jackets to a pair of females. The world went on. The Masters wasn’t the least bit affected.

In a letter to season-ticket holders last month, Snyder addressed the issue at length for the first time with such nonsense as the name being a “badge of honor,” going back to the franchise having a Native American coach during its early days in Boston.

Of course, he didn’t mention research that questions whether William “Lone Star” Dietz was an actual Indian or stole the identity of a missing man from the Oglala Sioux tribe. Snyder also cited polls and anecdotal evidence that indicate support for

the name from Native Americans, though activists have questioned the validity of those surveys.

Actually, it doesn’t matter whether they’re accurate or not. Snyder’s campaign is merely a smoke screen to cover the real issue – the millions and millions of dollars he worries about losing if he changes the name.

On that issue, he might have a point.

David E. Johnson, the CEO of Atlanta-based Strategic Vision, a public relations and branding agency, said the Washington franchise could take a huge financial hit by reversing course now on the issue of a name change.

“It they do rename it, it’s going to take time to win back the old fans who get angry because the name was changed,” Johnson said Friday. “When the sponsors look at that, do they really want to be in a rebuilding process when there are others teams they could go advertise with? Even if they are in the D.C. area, they could go up to the Baltimore

area and advertise with the Ravens.”

This is where the league needs to step up.

Commissioner Roger Goodell needs to tell Snyder, privately but in no uncertain terms, that there will be a change – three to four years from now, to allow for a smooth transition.

Snyder’s legitimate financial concerns must be addressed, perhaps from a special fund set up by the other 31 teams. Think about it: If each team contributed just \$10 million – basically, pocket change given the value of NFL franchises – there would be a rather tempting financial incentive to dangle in front of the Washington owner. Of, if can show he’s lost significant revenue after the name is changed, the NFL could commit to making up at least part of the difference.

Perhaps Snyder could leverage a name change into getting that new stadium he wants in the District of Columbia, which is unlikely to happen as long as the team carries its current nickname.

President Obama recently suggested that it might be time to consider a change. The mayor of Washington goes out of his way to avoid using the offensive term.

Fans are overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the name, evidenced by a poll released over the summer by The Washington Post. It showed 61 percent of city residents liked the name, and support was even higher among self-described fans; about eight in 10 said the team shouldn’t change its name.

But more telling was this part of the survey: Among those who want to keep the name, 56 percent said the word is inappropriate in apparently every context except naming an NFL team. Only 28 percent believed it was acceptable to use.

Enough said.

That name has to go.

Now.

Paul Newberry is a national writer for The Associated Press. Write to him at pnnewberry(at)ap.org or www.twitter.com/pnnewberry1963

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COURTESY
Mark D. Williams films at the Wheelock Mission and Academy, a short distance north of U.S. Highway 70, northeast of Millerton in McCurtain County. Wheelock functioned from 1884 to 1955 as a boarding school for American Indian girls, mostly Choctaw.

Film maker focuses on paranormal

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

DURANT, Okla. – As a boy, Mark D. Williams and his friends dared each other to go inside “haunted” houses, leaving behind objects as proof they had been there. As an adult, he’s still visiting ghosts - only now, he shows the evidence to everybody.

The Oklahoma City filmmaker screened two of his documentaries recently in Durant. A guest of the Choctaw Nation, Williams showed “Native American Paranormal Project: Wheelock Academy” and premiered his latest endeavor, “Native American Paranormal Project: Fort Washita” on Oct. 26 to an audience at the Donald R. Williams Library Theater.

As always, Williams, Choctaw, is a little anxious before the show. He never knows how his ghost hunting documentaries – or any of his work, for that matter – will be received. The last thing he wants is to be or appear disrespectful.

“When I do things, the paranormal documentaries, I do get asked this a lot: What does my dad think, him being a pastor and everything,” Williams said. “But he’s been very supportive of what I do. He actually likes it. He’s coming to the premiere tonight.”

Whether he’s filming at an abandoned Indian hospital, on the set of his next original thriller or at a school for his children’s comedy series, Williams has his family’s backing and the audiences’ full approval. He recently won best feature awards for his 2012 scare flick “The Unrest” at the Mvskoke Film Festival in Okmulgee and at the Red Fork Native American Film Festival in Tulsa. In 2012, his boy-hero tale “The Adventures of Josie the Frybread Kid” won audience favorite at the Red Fork festival. It’s impressive considering Williams didn’t study film at university (he has a degree in finance) and only began serious filmmaking in 2005.

“I was always into doing something creative to make people laugh or get some kind of emotion. I always was into projects,” he said.

He wrote stories and made comic books and, for a time, made a family newspaper filled with articles of the stray dog that showed up that morning, what happened at school and what was for dinner that night.

Williams also remembers hearing ghost stories told by elders at family gatherings. He liked the stories and he liked to watch the listeners react to the turn of events and sounds. Spurring boyhood imagination, those stories stayed with him.

In 2004, he started writing a book that he hoped would become a film someday. At a

friend’s suggestion, he turned the project into a screenplay. “Closure” was written as horror film and he submitted it to a screenwriting contest. Several months later, he was a finalist. Although he didn’t win, he was encouraged to do more.

One Indian taco sale later, Williams had a video camera and a film called “The Dare,” a short thriller he finished in 2005. Filmed at his home and locations in Oklahoma City, the film starred his brother, Nathan Williams, and other people he knew. It took two days to shoot.

“I didn’t know anything about directing. It was kind of a learning process for me, but it was fun,” he said.

Inspired by his youthful adventures, “The Dare” is about a group of boys who dare one another to go inside a haunted house and leave some sort of proof they had each been there for the others to find. One boy, however, doesn’t return until 20 years later. Williams concentrated a story ideal for a feature-length film into 20 minutes. When he showed it to his friends and family, they loved it. Soon, the Red Fork Native American Film Festival at Tulsa Community College called. “The Dare” was shown there in 2006. It was the first time he’d ever shown his creativity to a broad audience, and the audience liked it.

“It was amazing. I didn’t know what to really think. It was, again, my first film, my first movie. Putting it together, it was never my intent to show it to anybody, really,” he said.

That pushed Williams to write and direct even more under the moniker of Native Boy Productions. He was drawn into the supernatural and began the Native American Paranormal Project, a team of nine from various tribes that would go to supposedly haunted locations and document mysterious phenomena. They’ve explored buildings and cemeteries all around Oklahoma, and Williams has turned some of the footage into documentaries. Some of the team turned the camera to Choctaw Country at the Wheelock Academy and Fort Washita.

Wheelock Academy was a missionary school for Choctaw girls that began in 1832. By the time it closed in 1955, it had seen thousands of children come through its doors. Stories of students abused and even murdered at the hands of instructors had accumulated over the years and the grounds are said to be haunted with their spirits. Fort Washita, located more than 100 miles west of Wheelock near present-day Durant, was constructed in 1842 by the United States to keep peace between the Choctaw and Chickasaw people (who had just been relocated to the territory) and the tribes native to the region. It, too, is said to be haunted by ghostly soldiers and

Indians.

Ghost hunters find sites with a history of volatility are prime locations for paranormal activity. They go in usually at night with cameras outfitted in night vision, digital audio recorders, atmospheric gauges and open minds to document what they find (unexplained noises, shadows, lights, aberrations) or don’t (as is sometimes the case).

It’s all storytelling.

“That’s one of the things I’m really digging about documentary filmmaking right now - is telling the story using other people’s words, using their interviews to tell the story, using their stories to tell my story,” Williams said.

And his story is about telling the tale of those who are now gone.

“The Unrest,” his 2012 feature film, is about an Indian boarding school. The story is fictional but based on reported disappearances of children at several boarding schools in the 1800s and early 1900s. In the film, the ghosts of five children appear for a reckoning. “The Unrest” also marked a turn in Williams’ film work.

“‘The Unrest,’ I think, is the one that kind of took me to another level,” he said.

It is his first film in which he auditioned actors and cast for roles instead of using family and friends. It’s also the first in which he put together a crew of technicians and artists. Originally intended as another short film, “The Unrest” grew to about an hour in length, which was enough to categorize it as a feature film in the festivals.

“It (the film) was me taking on new challenges, trying to learn more about the craft of directing, learning how to communicate with a movie crew and actors ... That was a huge learning process for me,” he said.

And Williams hopes to take the craft even further as he continues his work, which includes another short about a haunted house and another paranormal investigative documentary.

As for the screenings in Durant, they sold out with mostly elders in the audience, many of whom later came by to shake his hand and thank Williams for telling their Choctaw stories.

He sums it up with one word: “Awesome.”

Williams’ film, “Grisso Mansion,” will show in Tahlequah Dec. 13 from 8pm-11pm, at the Dream Theater, 312 N. Muskogee Ave. For more information on times, call 918-457-8312.

WALK

Continued from Page 1

within 40 miles of the Kay County community.

With 49 percent of all Oklahoma women and 40 percent of Oklahoma men experiencing some form of partner violence in their lifetime, the state ranks third nationally in per capita deaths due to domestic violence. Only Alaska and South Carolina have higher per capita rates of domestic abuse-related homicides.

The walk comes as domestic violence advocates and tribal members in north-central Oklahoma still work to come to terms with the death of Janett Reyna, the domestic violence program coordinator for the Ponca Tribe. One of the primary coordinators of last year’s Six Nations Walk, Reyna was stabbed to death on Aug. 8 by her boyfriend in front of two of their three children. Friday’s walk was held in her memory.

“Last year, when my daughter became the domestic violence coordinator, she was so happy and so proud and so excited,” Reyes’ mother, Patricia McIntyre, said. “We would talk everyday. She was my best friend and my daughter.”

“It makes me happy to be here for her, but I wish she was here. It breaks my heart. I wish I was walking with her.”

With Reyna’s alleged killer, Luis Octavio Frias, still on the run, Reyna’s three children are still in protective custody with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. McIntyre has had limited visits with her grandchildren, but still sees the impact that their mother’s death has on the children.

“The middle one, Chloe, she’s the one who will say every now and again ‘My daddy killed my mommy.’ It’s been hard.

“She says ‘My daddy needs to go to jail,’ and ‘He’s a bad daddy.’ I just listen to her, I don’t respond to those comments. She’ll try to cheer herself up by acting silly and goofy...but she is fighting it. I can tell.”

A first degree murder warrant is still out for Octavio Frias’ arrest and bond is set at \$5,000,000. He stands about 5 feet, 11 inches and weighs around 200 pounds. Any one with information on his whereabouts is asked to call the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation at 1-800-522-8017.

Atocha Maria Beltran and Neshia Niemeyer have been charged in Kay County, Okla., as accessories in connection with Reyna’s death. Beltran has a preliminary hearing at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in Newkirk, Okla.

“Her (Reyna’s) death makes this issue up close and personal to the point that if I close my eyes, I think of her and see her picture in my mind,” Native Alliance Against Domestic Violence Executive Director Dawn Stover said. “Our work continues because the violence continues.”

Exhibit focuses on medicine with healing tradition

KEVIN BONHAM
Grand Forks Herald

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. (AP) – Laidman Fox Jr. attributes the loss of the storytelling tradition among Native people to the loss of nature itself.

“My grandparents would always talk about the land,” the Spirit Lake Nation spiritual leader says in an interactive video. “They would always talk about the hills, and they would tell us stories, about the trees and the water. Everything in nature they had stories for.

“Today, you don’t hear that too much among the people. And a lot of them, they know that there are things going on in our community. The water has taken over. ... We have the housing areas and the flooding, and things like that, so it’s hard, especially for the kids, to think of positive things about nature.

“To me, the Plains are beautiful. I like that you can look and you can see forever.”

Fox is one of 150 storytellers featured in an interactive exhibit, “Native Voices: Native People’s Concepts of Health and Illness,” produced and hosted by the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Md., the Grand Forks Herald reported.

A smaller traveling exhibit has opened at Cankdeska Cikana College, a two-year tribal college. Scheduled to stay until January, Spirit Lake is the first stop on a nationwide tour.

One of the exhibit’s goals is to spark a rebirth of the oral history tradition among Native Americans, Fox said.

It also is a program designed to encourage young people to pursue education, particularly in health care, according to Cankdeska Cikana President Cynthia Lindquist, who served on the national steering committee.

“I think it showcases role models, Indian leaders, tribal people, tribal elders, spiritual leaders, medicine

people, medicine healers in our community,” Lindquist said. “I think it showcases the potential, the possibilities, and that yes, they can do this. It emanates from the identity of who we are and to be proud of that and to keep going academically.”

Dr. Donald Lindberg, director of the National Library of Medicine, said the exhibit is a collection of interviews with about 150 Native Americans – Native Indians, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans – from all over the country.

“Out of those conversations we can really see a lot of wisdom,” he said. “We can see that native people, while they’re not the same in all these different places, they all have a lot to contribute. Their views are worth hearing. They’re worth sharing among the native peoples and they’re worth sharing among the bigger population.

“All three have the general idea that the responsibility for your health is yours,” he said. “Somebody

doesn’t do it to you or for you. You do it. And that’s a pretty good idea.

“Another idea is pride in yourself and your idea is almost essential for health, for healthy behavior. Otherwise, why bother?

“We see lots of counter-examples. People accept the idea that they’re not worthy. And they don’t bother to take care of themselves.”

He said his hidden agenda in the exhibit is to encourage more Native Americans to enter medical school, or the health field in general.

He commended Cankdeska Cikana and Lindquist, school president for the past 10 years, as being a leader in advancing the cause of education and particularly medical education, among tribal members.

The college’s enrollment has doubled, to about 225 students, in the past decade. Lindquist said her goal is to reach 400.

North Dakota’s Indians Into Medicine Program, a partnership between the state’s Indian tribes

and the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, has graduated as many as 25 percent of the Native American physicians in the nation, according to Lindquist.

A presentation at the exhibit’s opening added another eight voices to the show through a companion program: “Your Native Voices: First Person Narratives from the Spirit Lake Nation,” produced by nDigiDreams.

The eight stories, filmed over the previous week at the college, address issues of alcoholism and suicide. But the storytellers also speak of overcoming such obstacles and, about hope.

Lindquist said the local storytelling program will continue after the traveling exhibit moves on. However, many of the stories likely will be added to the collection.

“This will be our vehicle to save those stories and to share them,” she said. “I think this is a powerful, powerful tool.”



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EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

NOVEMBER 7
Oklahoma Military Connection Hiring Event, 10:30 am- 12 pm military related only, 12 pm - 2:30 pm open to all job seekers. Meridian Technology Center, Industrial Development Center, Stillwater, Okla. More info visit www.OkMilitaryConnection.com or call Levi Valdois, CareerTech for Vets at 405-743-5573

NOVEMBER 9
Red Feather Gala, hosted by the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Proceeds will go towards construction of a new 7,000 square-foot pharmacy at the main clinic. For more information and the attendance form: <http://www.okcic.com/announcements/red-feather-gala-sponsorship/>.

[okcic.com/announcements/red-feather-gala-sponsorship/](http://www.okcic.com/announcements/red-feather-gala-sponsorship/).

NOVEMBER 9
Descendants of Freedmen Association and African Indians Foundation 7th annual Treaty Celebration Conference, Langston University Campus, 4205 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City. For more information on becoming a vendor or getting tickets, visit www.freedmen.org or www.freedmen5tribes.com. You may also call 405-227-9810.

Tahlequah Farmer's Market, 9am-noon at Norris Park. If its very cold and wet we will set up in The Dream Theatre, 1/2 block south of the park on Muskogee Ave. There will be cool weather vegetables available, farm fresh eggs and meats.

American Heart Association Second Annual "Honoring the Beat of Life" Pow Wow at Reed Center, Midwest City. Events start at 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. All Events open to the public. Contact: Rachel Crawford, American Heart Association (405) 948-2134 or Rachel.Crawford@heart.org.

NOVEMBER 11
Peoria Tribe Veteran's Day Service at Peoria Tribal Cemetery beginning at 11am. For more info call 918-540-2535.

NOVEMBER 15
Cmdr. John B. Herrington (Chickasaw), the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space, to speak at Comanche Nation College, James Cox Auditorium, 1608 SW 9th St., Lawton, OK. 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. For more information: 580-591-0203 or 580-353-7075.

White Eagle Health Fair at the White Eagle Cultural Center in Ponca City. Run/Walk begins at 8am, booth viewing starts 9am to 12noon. Lunch will be provided. Contact info: 580-765-2501 xt. 2232, Jo Ann Springwater.

Oklahoma City Public Schools, Indoor Stomp Dance, US Grant High School, 5016 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK. Supper, 6:00 pm; Dancing, 7:00 pm. Vendors, Raffles, etc. For more information: 405-587-0355.

NOVEMBER 16
Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church annual Native Flair arts & crafts event, 10:30am-5pm, 1901 N College, Tulsa. Info call 918-834-1956 or 918-230-3181.

American Indian Heritage Month event: Traditional Dance with demonstrations. At the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, OK. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Free with museum admission. For more

information, please contact us at education@okhistory.org or by phone at (405) 522-3602.

NOVEMBER 16
Indian Child Welfare Benefit Dance, sponsored by the employees of Cheyenne & Arapaho Indian Child Welfare. Concho Community Hall, Concho, OK. Contests! Proceeds go to ICW Foster Children Christmas Dinner & Presents. All Princesses welcome. Cake walks and raffles. Gourd Dances: 2:00 pm & 6:30 pm; Supper Break: 5:30 pm; Grand Entry: 8:00 pm. For more information and vendors: 405-422-7435.

NOVEMBER 16
1st Ever Oklahoma City Public Schools Powwow, US Grant High School, 5016 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK. Vendors, Contests, Raffles. Gourd Dancing, 2:00 pm; Supper, 5:00 pm; Grand Entry, 7:00 pm. For more information: 405-587-0355.

NOVEMBER 23
Birthday-Honor Dance for Herschel Kaulaity's 80th Birthday at Concho Community Hall, Concho. Gourd Dance @ 1:00pm "Special Contest" Men's "Old-Style" Northern Traditional (50 years & up) For more information please contact Mary Kaulaity @ (661) 654-7152

- Inside this issue:**
- **Woman works to recruit Native foster families**
 - **Wyandotte expansion includes bowling alley**
 - **Commentary: Natives and Affordable Care Act**



NATIVE TIMES

It’s a tie: 1 of the 2 C&A governor’s races goes to a runoff

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – According to certified results released late Nov. 6 by one of the two claimant Cheyenne and Arapaho election commissions, the general election for governor and lieutenant governor ended in a tie.

Unofficial results posted late last Tuesday and early Wednesday from the commission recognized by Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration initially showed Roberta Hamilton and Jerry Levi edging out Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton and Cornell Sankey by 10 votes. The

two sets of candidates finished first and second in the Tribes’ Oct. 8 primary.

However, in the certification announcement, the commission said it disallowed 85 ballots that were originally included in the unofficial results, creating a tie and the need for a third election. Among the

excluded ballots were an unsigned absentee ballot and 84 that were cast by tribal citizens whose names could not be found on the voter registration list. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ election code does not include language about provi-



See **RUNOFF** on Page 3



JIM MONE | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

American Indians and their supporters gather outside the Metrodome to protest the Washington team nickname prior to an NFL football game between Washington and the Minnesota Vikings, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Hundreds rally in Minn. against team nickname

JEFF BAENEN
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – Hundreds of American Indians and their supporters rallied outside the Metrodome Thursday night to demand the Washington R*nsk*ns change the team’s nickname, calling it racist and disrespectful.

Carrying flags, signs and staffs and led by American Indian Movement co-founder Clyde Bellecourt, the crowd marched to the downtown stadium to hear speakers before the Minnesota Vikings played Washington.

Opponents call the team nickname offensive to Native Americans. As drums beat, protesters chanted, “Hey hey, ho ho, Little Red Sambo’s got to go.” Some carried signs with messages including “We are not cartoons! Respect us!” and “Racism is unsports-

manlike conduct.”

Mario McBrogan, 24, of Minneapolis, who is Cherokee, was there to watch the game and to support changing the Redskins’ name. He said the name should be changed “out of respect to every Native American.”

Other teams have dropped Indian mascots and nicknames, McBrogan said. “So I don’t understand why they (the R*nsk*ns) shouldn’t have to change their name. It’s obviously offensive to a culture,” he said.

Krystal Hedemann, 34, of St. Paul, a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, said it’s time to get rid of what she called racist names in sports.

“I want my children to grow up in a world without racist names,” Hedemann said.

Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ven-

See **RALLY** on Page 4

Tribal leader pleads guilty in federal court to DUI

According to U.S. Attorney Mike Cotter, Shannon Augare’s standing as a tribal council member overseeing the court system made it comparable to a corruption case.

MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) – A Blackfeet tribal leader and state senator pleaded guilty in federal court on Nov. 7 to drunken driving, reckless driving and obstruction of a peace officer in a case that tested the ability of the U.S. government to prosecute Indians for misdemeanor offenses on tribal lands.

Shannon Augare told U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Strong he accepted responsibility for the May 26 traffic stop in which he fled a Glacier County sheriff’s deputy after saying the deputy had no jurisdiction to pull him over on the Blackfeet reservation.

Augare apologized to law enforcement, his colleagues on the Montana Senate and the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council and

his family.

“I respect the law and I believe it’s absolutely right to accept responsibility when I’m wrong,” he said.

Strong ordered Augare to pay \$1,250 in fines, a special assessment of \$30 and to attend a substance-abuse treatment class. He received no jail time.

Augare entered his guilty plea after Strong rejected an argument by attorney Joe McKay earlier in the hearing that Augare’s October conviction in Blackfeet tribal court on the same charges should end the federal government’s jurisdiction in the case.

McKay earlier this year argued that the Blackfeet tribe has exclusive jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes committed by Indians on the reservation. After Strong ruled that the federal government and tribal government share jurisdiction, Augare said he was ready to accept responsibility but he wanted to do so in tribal court, McKay said.

Blackfeet Chief Judge Allie Edwards gave Augare a suspended jail sentence and a partially suspended fine that will be completely suspended if he spends \$200 on toys for the reservation’s Toys for Tots drive.

McKay argued last Thursday that because the tribal court

proceedings concluded first, that should end the case in federal court, too. He cited the law under which Augare was being prosecuted that said federal jurisdiction does not apply to any Indian who already has been punished according to the law of the tribe.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan Weldon argued that provision of the law does not apply because the federal government had charged Augare first, and the federal court keeps its jurisdiction regardless of any action taken afterward by the tribal court.

Strong commended Augare for taking responsibility for his actions in tribal court, but ruled in favor of Weldon.

McKay then entered a guilty plea for Augare, telling the judge their intention was to end the case today so that Augare could move forward.

McKay said afterward that he believes this case was a setback for tribal sovereignty and that an overreaching U.S. attorney’s office had extended its jurisdiction into Indian Country like never before.

He questioned the resources

See **DUI** on Page 4

Official says Alaska tribes could get IRS audits

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – A National Congress of American Indians official says Alaska’s tribes should prepare for possible Internal Revenue Service audits.

An agency attorney, John Dossett, tells the Juneau Empire that the IRS has been auditing tribes across the country. An

Oglala Sioux Tribe official said during a Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing in July that nearly every tribe in the Great Plains already has been audited.

Dossett’s group is telling tribes that if they haven’t been audited yet, they probably will

Dossett said he doesn’t know

specifically if the IRS will start auditing Alaska tribes, but they should be aware it’s a possibility.

An IRS spokesman tells the Empire he couldn’t comment whether the agency was super-ficially looking at tribes, or how many tribes have been audited in the last decade.

Tribes to receive Congressional Gold Medals in honor of Code Talkers

LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

DURANT, Okla. – On Nov. 20, the Congress of the United States will present Congressional gold medals to 26 tribes in honor of their tribal members’ service in the U.S. military as Code Talkers in World War I and World War II. A private awards ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C. The tribe will receive the Congressional Gold Medal, and each one will be of a unique design befitting that tribe. The Code Talkers or a surviving family member will receive duplicate solid Silver medals. Bronze duplicate medals will be sold to be public from the United States Mint beginning soon afterward.

During World War I and World

War II, hundreds of American Indians from dozens of tribes joined the U.S. armed forces. Historically, they are among the first to volunteer and are recognized as having the highest record of service on average compared to other ethnic groups.

One small group of Choctaw men helped turn the tide during World War I and was so successful their method of communications was repeated in World War II. They were the original Code Talkers who used words from their traditional tribal language as weapons. America’s enemies were never able to decipher or “break” the coded message they sent.

“The Code Talker Recognition Act paved the way for Congressional medals to honor American Indian Code Talkers,” said Choctaw Nation



COURTESY | FILE PHOTO

Five members of the World War I Choctaw telephone squad or “Code Talkers” in a 1919 photo taken at Camp Merritt, New Jersey. From right are Capt. E.H. Horner, Pvt. James Davenport, Cpl. James Edwards, Cpl. Calvin Wilson

See **MEDALS** on Page 4

Woman recruiting American Indian foster families

“While government mistrust persists, cultural norms and licensing requirements for foster families create other barriers that limit the number of American Indian families stepping up to offer foster homes.”

BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – Brandi Sweet is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota, but that heritage is only partly why she is a perfect fit for the newly created post of American-Indian foster family recruiter at Utah Foster Care.

Sweet knows what it is like to be a child in foster care. She was one. “I was a bad child,” Sweet said. “It wasn’t because of abuse and neglect. I was in trouble with the law. My mom didn’t know what to do with me, which happens a lot of times with a lot of families when they have kids who are just kind of out of control.”

Her story is hardly unusual: Extreme poverty led to homelessness, which led to substance abuse, then crime.

At age 15, Sweet landed in Montana’s juvenile-detention system. For two years, Sweet moved between 10 different custodial placements. Not one, despite the effort of her relatives, was with a foster family who shared Sweet’s cultural background.

“My family was telling them ‘We are Native American, we are Native American’ and nobody was listening to us at all,” Sweet said. “They ended up transferring me 10 hours away from my family. ... The goal of this whole system is family reunification and strengthening, and then you’re taking a child whose family can’t afford to travel 10 hours (to see) them.”

It didn’t make sense to Sweet then, and it doesn’t now – which has helped propel her along a career path that has focused on mak-

ing a difference in the lives of tribal members.

Sweet, who moved to Utah about a year ago with her husband, previously worked in Washington, D.C., on numerous projects and initiatives involving American Indian affairs with the White House and bureaus of Indian Education and Indian Affairs. She launched a consulting business a year ago and has worked with the Consolidated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, Duckwater Shoshone and Ely Shoshone, among others.

Sweet said her new post, which is part-time, will give her the opportunity to bring together all these personal and professional experiences to benefit her community. But Sweet, 31, knows she faces a huge challenge.

Currently, there are 13 licensed American-Indian foster families in Utah, well under the number needed, given the 124 children – including about 83 along the Wasatch Front – in state custody. Another 41 children are in custody of the Ute tribe, which is believed to have the most established social-services program of the state’s eight federally recognized tribes, according to Mike Hamblin, recruitment director at Utah Foster Care.

Obstacles to recruiting more families include a hard-to-shake view of the U.S. government and its past efforts to “help” American Indians that began with initially locating Indian Affairs within the U.S. Department of War.

“There have been a lot of policies that the government has enacted that have been detrimental to Indian communities, Indian families, and Indian children in particular,” Sweet said. “A lot of those policies related to termination and assimilation to remove (Indian) culture from families and communities, to take that Native identity away from the children and the families.”

That effort was spurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s by boarding schools set up to educate and assimilate American Indian children. It was general practice for children to have their hair cut, be dressed in uniforms and receive Christian

names. They were prohibited from speaking their native languages.

In Utah, a former Army hospital in Brigham City became the home of the Intermountain Indian



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | COURTESY
In this Oct. 18, 2013 photo, Brandi Sweet, the newly appointed Native American Foster Family Recruiter for the Utah Foster Care Foundation, attends the organization’s 12th Annual Pumpkin Festival at The Gateway Mall in Salt Lake City.

School, which operated from 1950 to 1984. Assimilation efforts in Utah also were driven by the Indian Placement Program operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1947 to 1996, which led to thousands of American Indian children being placed in Mormon homes.

The boarding school phenomenon largely wiped out the traditional, shared approach to child rearing common in American Indian communities.

“From the perspective of those who have been through it, they feel in many ways that has led to many of the problems the population now experiences,” Hamblin said. “We’re talking about as little as two generations ago, these people had no real experience or knowledge or opportunity to understand what it’s like to be a part of a family and how a family is supposed to operate.”

Hamblin said some issues arise

“because the parents don’t have parenting skills because they weren’t parented and they’ve never seen what being a parent looks like. No one has ever modeled that for them, so they struggle to be a parent themselves.”

The boarding school movement also influenced child welfare practices involving American Indians, Sweet said. The high removal rate of American Indian children from their homes and communities led Congress to authorize the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in 1978.

Before the act, American Indian children in Utah were 1,500 times more likely to be in foster care than other children in the state.

The act requires child welfare agencies to follow certain steps when an American Indian child – one who is either a member of an Indian tribe or is eligible for membership in a tribe as the child of a member – is placed in state custody. Those steps included notifying and allowing intervention of the appropriate tribe in a custody proceeding and giving placement preference to extended family, other tribe members or American Indian families generally.

But as Sweet’s experience and Utah data show, reaching the act’s ideals is difficult.

“There is a huge amount of mistrust,” Sweet said. “Foster care has typically come from state agencies that are seen as those that come in and take Native kids away. It’s been a huge challenge.”

American Indian children in Utah are still four times more likely than other children to be in foster care, which some attribute to cultural differences in views of appropriate living conditions.

Between July 1, 2008, and June 25, 2013, the state placed 598 American-Indian children in foster care – 5 percent of the total number of children in foster care during that five-year period. Of the American Indian children in foster care, 82 were eventually adopted.

Families that consisted of at least one American Indian parent adopted 22 children, while 60 were placed with non-American Indian

parents, according to data from the Division of Child and Family Services.

While government mistrust persists, cultural norms and licensing requirements for foster families create other barriers that limit the number of American Indian families stepping up to offer foster homes, Sweet said.

For example, multi-generational and doubled-up households are common in the American Indian community. That can make it hard to meet such requirements as providing a child with a bedroom with least 80 square feet, or 60 square feet if the room is shared. Also, poverty remains high even among American Indians who no longer live on a reservation, Sweet said, which makes it difficult to cover other costs associated with providing foster care.

The state Office of Licensing, which certifies foster families, is revising requirements; some changes may lower some of these hurdles, Hamblin said.

Sweet believes it helps that Utah Foster Care is a partner with, but not part of, the state’s child-welfare system.

“That creates a different kind of feeling and relationship and tone,” she said.

Sweet also believes networking with the state’s American Indian tribes and asking families to step up will do more to provide or help find homes for children in need.

“We are going back to our community approach and our community responsibility,” Sweet said, “that whole idea that it takes a community to raise a child, and asking every Native person that lives here in Utah and along the Wasatch Front to look deep down inside themselves and just see how they can support this effort.”

So far, that outreach has been well received.

“I am seeing so much excitement that there is finally somebody doing this work,” she said. “Everyone has known there was a huge need for this. There is almost a sense of relief.”

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Citizen Potawatomi Nation gets grant for mentorship program

SHAWNEE, Okla. (AP) – The Oklahoma-based Citizen Potawatomi Nation has received more than \$367,000 in funding to create a mentorship program using traditional culture teachings to try to combat peer pressure, bullying and other negative behaviors.

The Shawnee-based tribe announced this week that the Administration for Native Americans provided the funding for the program.

The two-year grant will go toward developing three forms of curriculum focusing on cultural mentorship, cultural activities and peer mentoring.

Tribal youth ages 12-17 will take part in the program that will be held on weekdays during the school year and summer.

Cultural Activities Coordinator Coby Lehman says the program is meant to reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency among Native American youth.

Cherokees, Gilcrease preserve Ross docs

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – The Cherokee Nation and Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa are partnering to preserve handwritten documents dating to the 1800s that are important to the tribe.

The papers are called the “John Ross Papers” for former Cherokee Nation Chief John Ross, and the documents include information about the Trail of Tears and the re-establishment of the Cherokee Nation government in Tahlequah in 1839. Chief John Ross once owned the more than 2,000 handwritten pages.

Gilcrease Museum founder Thomas Gilcrease obtained the papers more than 70 years ago. The public has never viewed the documents.

Cherokee Nation officials on Friday presented Gilcrease Museum with a \$20,000 check to preserve the papers through a conservation assessment and sleeve re-housing for each page.

RUNOFF

Continued from Page 1

sional ballots.

Unofficial results had 1,482 votes cast in the executive branch race, while the certified results showed 1,398 ballots counted.

After initially deferring all comment to its attorney, a representative for the Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission requested all questions about the general election be submitted in writing to the commission’s interim chairman, William Sankey. Neither the commission nor its Oklahoma City-based attorney, Michelle Cecelia responded to requests for comment as of noon Saturday, but according to a public notice released Friday evening, the commission is meeting Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. in the Concho complex’s large conference room to discuss challenges, recount requests and a special election.

Christopher Roman Nose, a volunteer manager for Rollin Hamilton and Sankey’s campaign, confirmed that his clients filed both a recount request and a formal challenge to the certified results that will be considered at Tuesday’s meeting.

“The whole campaign for both Eddie and Cornell has been an emotional rollercoaster,” Roman Nose said. “They want to do right by the people. That’s why they’re challenging the results. They want to do what’s right.”

Phone calls made to Roberta Hamilton and Jerry Levi’s campaign were not returned Friday. However, in a statement posted to her Facebook page, Roberta

Hamilton indicated that she would also challenge the certified results and questioned the validity of those released figures.

“People, please take a stand against this unfair election board and whoever else is involved with this unfair election,” she wrote. “Our people deserve better!”

In addition to the challenges scheduled to go before the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration’s election commission, two hearings contesting the results of last month’s primary elections are scheduled to go before that faction’s Supreme Court Friday afternoon that could potentially force the tribes’ electoral process to start all over. Under the tribes’ election code, tribal citizens may also appeal the results.

Citing voter registration issues, tribal citizen Joyce Wood of El Reno is appealing the primary results. Due to an outstanding debt to the tribes’ previous election contractor, the administration’s election commission did not have complete access to information about previously registered voters, prompting efforts in July and August to re-register more than 3,000 people to vote, despite a constitutional requirement to publish a final voter list no later than Aug. 15.

According to an employee phone directory published on the tribes’ website, Wood is also Prairie Chief-Boswell’s executive assistant. Prairie Chief-Boswell and her running mate, Connie Yellowman-Hart, finished third in last month’s primary.

The other challenge comes from former governor Darrell Flyingman and his running mate, Adrianna Harris, who were the only executive

branch candidates to file with both claimant election commissions. However, their names were removed from the Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission’s ballot prior to the October primary, prompting the challenge.

Despite the changing numbers in the executive branch election, none of the three legislative seats up for grabs saw result changes between the unofficial and official results.

Separated by five votes, Alan Fletcher and Ramona Tallbear finished first and second in Cheyenne District No. 2.

In Arapaho District No. 1, Edward Mosqueda defeated incumbent Jane Nightwalker, the only legislative candidate from any district to file with both claimant election commissions.

In Arapaho District No. 2, Dale Hamilton edged past Michael Martin by six votes to advance to a runoff with Christine Morton.

Kyle Orange was the only Cheyenne District No. 4 candidate to file with the Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission and has been declared the winner by default.

The Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission plans to conduct a run-off election on Dec. 17 for the top two finishers in Cheyenne District No. 2 and Arapaho District No. 2. The tribes’ constitution calls for the winners to be sworn in on the first Saturday in January after the election, which is Jan. 4, 2014.

The other claimant election commission, affiliated with the Leslie Wandrie-Harjo administration, has already certified winners in

four of the five races. According to paid advertisements published in the Watonga Republican, Marlin Hawk, Fiona Whiteskunk and Michael Kodaseet all ran unopposed for three of the four council seats. Flyingman and Harris were the only executive branch candidates to file with that commission. Results for the fifth seat, Arapaho District No. 1, have not been disclosed.

The Wandrie-Harjo affiliated election commission has also taken out an injunction with that faction’s Supreme Court in an effort to prohibit the other claimant election commission from conducting another vote.

“The issuance of a permanent injunction will promote the public interest and public policies of the tribes by enforcing the legislature’s constitutional rights to consider the constitutional power of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution,” Supreme Court Chief Justice Bob Smith wrote.

District Results (no change)

Cheyenne District No. 2
Alan Fletcher: 138
Ramona Tallbear: 133
George Woods: 96

Cheyenne District No. 4
Kyle Orange: unopposed

Arapaho District No. 1
Edward Mosqueda: 91
Jane Nightwalker: 42

Arapaho District No. 2
Christine Morton: 159
Dale Hamilton: 90
Michael Martin: 84

Unofficial results released Nov. 5
Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Roberta Hamilton/Jerry Levi: 746
Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton/Cornell Sankey: 736

VS

Certified results published Nov. 6
Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Roberta Hamilton/Jerry Levi: 699
Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton/Cornell Sankey: 699

Experts: C&A election results ‘unusual’

“It’s pretty rare,” Oklahoma Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriaux said when asked about tied elections. “I can’t think of anyone in this office who remembers the last occurrence.”

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

NORMAN, Okla. – In an election full of curveballs, the certified executive branch results from the Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell-affiliated election commission is an unusual wrinkle for voting experts.

“Tie elections are exceedingly rare,” said Keith Gaddie, a political science professor at the University of Oklahoma and multistate litigation consultant in

voting rights cases. “However, depending on the rules, there are a couple of ways of dealing with them.”

Some states rely purely on chance to determine a winner, such as flipping a coin or a high card draw. The state of Nevada allows elections to be solved with a game of Texas Hold ‘Em.

Oklahoma’s election code calls for the winner to be drawn by lot at a public meeting held during regular business hours on a weekday. The statute also specifically requires that the lots be the same size, cut from the same kind and color of paper and must be folded once. Candidates must be notified in advance and given the option to have a witness present. The state’s largest tribe, the Cherokee Nation, has similar language in its election code.

“It’s pretty rare,” Oklahoma Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriaux said when asked about tied elections. “I can’t think of anyone in this office who remembers the last occurrence.”

In the vote certification, the Prairie Chief-Boswell affiliated election commission indicated that it will conduct a special election to determine a winner. If the certification withstands the pending legal challenges and recount request, it would be the third time in three months that Cheyenne and Arapaho voters will be asked to go to the polls, thus potentially running the risk for voter fatigue unless at least one campaign is able to mobilize its supporters.

“Unless you’re a voting geek, it’s not necessarily one of your top priorities,” University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock said. “After the first election, it’s ‘I’ve been a good citizen. I’ve voted. Now what?’

“With a runoff, you go from having lots of contests decided to only having one or two and they might not necessarily mobilize voters. They just don’t show up.”

NATIVE American TIMES



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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News from the crossroads of Indian Country

— MEMBER —



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First Nations Development Institute

NAFSA was initiated in 2012 by First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) in partnership with Taos County Economic De-

“The creation of this alliance has been a long time coming – we really wanted to see this a decade ago – but we’ve got it underway now and expect things to move rapidly from here on out,” said Michael E. Roberts, president of First Nations. “It’s time that we give a big national Native voice to action, advocacy and policy about food sovereignty for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. We need this to regain control of our

Clayton Brascoupe, Traditional
Native American Farmers Associa-
tion
Les Brown, Columbia River Inter-
Tribal Fish Commission
Josie Chase, Oglala Lakota College
Dan Cornelius, Intertribal Agri-
culture Council
Dana Eldridge, Diné Policy Insti-
tute, Diné College
Julie Garreau, Cheyenne River
Youth Project
Terrol Dew Johnson, Tohono
O'odham Community Action
Winona LaDuke, White Earth
Land Recovery Project
Jon Matthews, Columbia River

A-dae Romero, Cochiti Youth
Experience
Elvera Sargent, Akwesasne Free-
dom School
Rita Williams, Mvskoke Food
Sovereignty Initiative
NAFSA Coordinators are:
Terrie Bad Hand, Taos County
Economic Development Corpora-
tion
Pati Martinson, Taos County Eco-
nomic Development Corporation

In its first meeting, developing a vision for the organization was the primary objective. The following call to action emerged in those discussions, and the Founding Coun-

cil is now seeking input on it and recruiting additional partners to help promote food sovereignty in Native communities: "Restoring Native food systems is an immediate and fundamental need for the continued survival and physical and spiritual well-being of Native peoples and our Mother Earth – now and into the future. The costs of doing nothing – and the potential benefits of action – are massive ... We commit to take collective and individual action to address food sovereignty, and to build the necessary understanding and awareness among our peoples, nations, leaders and policymakers, as well as our youth and coming generations, to make it a continuing reality." To learn about NAFSA, its call to action and resources for food-system control, please visit <http://www.nativefoodsystems.org/about/nafsa>.

UTC's recognition of that past has not always been

“The Cherokee people, by and large, are nearly invisible in modern times,” Ricks said. “But they’re such a part of American history, in so many people’s lineage.”

President Bush signed the Code Talkers Recognition Act on Oct. 15, 2008,

The Code Talkers left a lasting legacy for their people and their country. They are beginning to receive the recognition and honor they greatly deserved during their lifetimes.

Medals to be awarded on November 20, 2013: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (South Dakota); Cherokee Nation (Oklahoma); Choctaw Nation (Oklahoma); Comanche Nation (Oklahoma); Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (South Dakota); Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes (Montana); Ho-Chunk Nation (Wisconsin); Hopi Tribe (Arizona); Kiowa Tribe (Oklahoma); Meskwaki Nation (Iowa); Muscogee Creek Nation (Oklahoma); Oglala Sioux Tribe (South Dakota); Oneida Nation (Wisconsin); Osage Nation (Oklahoma); Pawnee Nation (Oklahoma); Ponca Tribe (Oklahoma); Pueblo of Acoma Tribe (New Mexico); Santee Sioux Nation (Nebraska); Seminole Nation (Oklahoma); Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (Sioux) Tribe (South Dakota); Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (South Dakota); Tlingit Tribe (Alaska); Tonto Apache Tribe (Arizona); White Mountain Apache Tribe (Arizona); Yankton Sioux Tribe (South Dakota); Menominee Nation (design unveiled at the ceremony)

Medals to be awarded at a later date:
Brule Sioux Tribe; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes; Chippewa Tribe; Crow Tribe; Laguna Pueblo Tribe; Rosebud Tribe; Mohawk Tribe

tura spoke to the crowd, saying he always tried to avoid saying “R*dsk*ns” when covering the team as a sports broadcaster.

"This name is wrong. It's just plain wrong," Ventura said. He asked what would happen if a sports team in Birmingham, Ala., was named "The Slaves" and had an African-American mascot.

“What kind of outrage would there be at that? Well, this is the same thing,” Ventura said.

Team owner Dan Snyder has called the name a "badge of honor" and said it won't be changed.

Asked about the team's nickname at a Thursday morning news conference, current Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton called it "racist" and suggested every member of Congress should boycott the team to put pressure on its owners.

Also Thursday, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak released a statement saying the name "disrespects indigenous people." Six members of the Minneapolis City Council had recently sent a letter to the team's owner and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell calling the nickname "racist" and team mascot racist.

– Associated Press writers
Patrick Condon and Brian Bakst
contributed to this story.

prosecutors expended over a “petty case” when so many violent crimes go unsolved on the reservation.

“This case was never about Shannon Augare,” he said. “This was about our tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction.”

– period.”

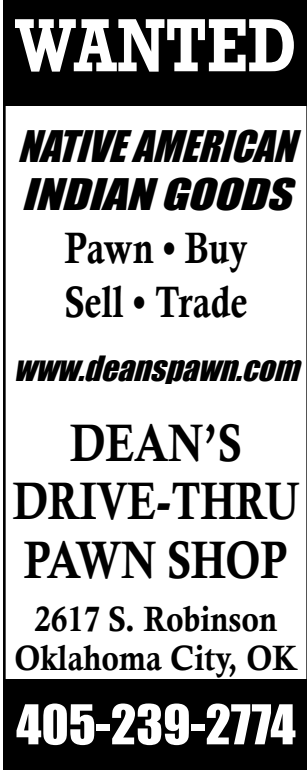
U.S. Attorney Mike Cotter dismissed the idea that his office was impeding on tribal sovereignty, and invited McKay to provide him with any information about unprosecuted violent crimes on the reservation.

This case was much more than a simple DUI, Cotter said. Augare's standing as a tribal council member

overseeing the court system made it comparable to a corruption case, he said.

"We took this case because no one else (in the tribal justice system) took the case," Cotter said. "It certainly appeared that Augare was using his position to influence the investigation and his prosecution to his advantage to avoid criminal culpability."

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COMMENTARY ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

American Indians and the Affordable Care Act



ROBYN SUNDAY-ALLEN

With open enrollment now started, Oklahomans can enroll in the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Marketplace to shop for an insurance plan that fits their health needs and budget, as required by the mandate that goes into effect in 2014.

While federally-recognized American Indians and Alaska Natives are one of

several groups exempt from the insurance mandate, those that are recognized only at the state level are not. Regardless of an American Indian's tribal affiliation or federal status, we are recommending to all our patients – and all American Indians – that they enroll in the Marketplace. Here's why.

Despite American Indian and Alaska Natives being covered by Indian health care systems, which will continue when Marketplace enrollment starts, the new program offers new options for health coverage, helps increase information to decrease health disparities and supplies organizations more money to invest in additional health care programs. It is another way that the federal government meets

its responsibility to provide health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Historically, this group has faced significant barriers to accessing affordable health insurance and these barriers have contributed to significant health disparities, including having the highest rate of Type 2 diabetes of any group in the United States, 600 percent more likely to die from tuberculosis, 510 percent more likely to die from alcoholism and suffer from a 71 percent higher infant mortality rate than the general population.

New benefits mean more services for individuals and the communities we serve, and new rights and protections make coverage fair and easier to understand. The ACA provides families and

individuals security in their health coverage in many ways. It prohibits insurance companies from dropping coverage if you get sick, it removes lifetime or annual limits, it covers preventive care like mammograms and it ends discrimination against anyone with a pre-existing condition.

Additionally, under the new health care law, American Indians and Alaska Natives joining new insurance plans have the freedom to choose from any primary care provider and OB-GYN in their health plan's network, without a referral. The new health care law also invests in increased data collection and research about health disparities to better understand and ultimately eliminate health disparities.

The ACA permanently re-authorizes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which authorizes Congress to fund health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives through Indian health facilities. Urban Indians who use additional insurance at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, or any other Native clinic, will be contributing resources to help fund more programs like fitness centers, substance abuse services and counseling.

Overall, the Indian health system experiences high vacancy rates in health care providers at a rate of 26 percent for nurses, 24 percent for dentists and 21 percent for physicians. The new law also includes new resources that will boost the number

of health care providers in communities where they are needed most, as well as diversify the workforce, so racial and ethnic minorities are better represented.

With Oklahoma having the second largest American Indian population in the nation, enrolling in the ACA Marketplace makes sense not only for Oklahoma's Native community but also the community at large.

Robyn Sunday-Allen is CEO of Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. The Oklahoma City Indian Clinic was established in 1974 to provide high-quality health care and wellness services to urban Indians in central Oklahoma. The clinic staff cares for more than 18,000 patients from more than 220 federally recognized tribes every year.

SNAP funding critical to Indian Country



BILL JOHN BAKER
Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

As part of the Farm Bill reauthorization in the House of Representatives, the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding will be substantially cut. This cut is harmful for Cherokee Nation citizens and will hurt Indian Country.

In many homes, food stamps are the only means and access to

quality, nutritious foods. A proposed nearly \$40 billion cut in SNAP, which funds our state's food stamp program, will have a dire effect on hundreds of Native families in northeast Oklahoma, harming the health and well-being of many Cherokee citizens. Nationally, those cuts, coupled with the recession and the high unemployment rates in heavily concentrated Native communities, could have a catastrophic impact.

Across Indian Country, 24 percent of Native households receive SNAP benefits, and 27 percent of Native people live below the poverty level, nearly double the national rate. Tribal citizens are more than twice as likely as any other demographic to depend on SNAP assistance to meet basic food needs to feed their families.

Oklahoma has one of the largest populations of American Indians, and it is one of the poorest states in the nation. More than half of Oklahoma counties have an average income at or below the federal

poverty level. Oklahoma's poverty rate of 17.2 percent is well above the national average and our child poverty rate is almost 25 percent, and those figures are highest in communities of color—Native, Hispanic and black homes.

We can and we must do better for all our people. To put it bluntly, we need an agriculture policy where access to healthy food for our citizens is part of the equation. We must have a commitment to take care of the most vulnerable among us: children, elders and those in need.

Cutting the \$40 billion will only drive up health care costs and create real problems for the generation that follows us. Tribal citizens often face more obstacles in acquiring an adequate diet than other American citizens.

Educators nationwide agree that healthy bodies build healthy minds, and people learn better when properly and adequately fed. It is unacceptable to have our children and their families denied access to the

foods they need to survive and to succeed. Food insecurity can impact a child's health and create behavioral and psychological conditions, which limit a child's God-given talent. This assistance, through alleviating hunger, provides our students access to achieve and become successful citizens and community leaders.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, the proposed Farm Bill "will allow states to end SNAP benefits to most adults who are receiving or applying for SNAP—including parents with children as young as 1 year old—if they are not working or participating in a work or training program for at least 20 hours per week despite being in areas with little-to-no employment opportunities. This would cut off an entire family's food aid, including their children's, for an unlimited time. States are incentivized to invoke this because they can keep half of the federal savings and cut critical funding for SNAP's nutrition edu-

cation program, which promotes healthy eating choices for low-income households."

It's time the federal government upheld its trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives. As Indian people, we do not deserve legislation that will severely cut food assistance to our communities. We do deserve a better agriculture policy in Oklahoma, for the Cherokee Nation and for Indian Country.

The Cherokee Nation is the federally recognized government of the Cherokee people and has inherent sovereign status recognized by treaty and law. The seat of tribal government is the W.W. Keeler Complex near Tahlequah, Okla., the capital of the Cherokee Nation. With more than 318,000 citizens, over 8,900 employees and a variety of tribal enterprises ranging from aerospace and defense contracts to entertainment venues, Cherokee Nation is one of the largest employers in northeastern Oklahoma and the largest tribal nation in the United States.

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RFP:

Ad Sales Representative

The Osage Nation is soliciting proposals from individuals and/or firms for an Ad Sales Representative. Responses will be accepted until 11:00 AM (CDT) on November 21, 2013 at the Purchasing Office of the Osage Nation, 627 Grandview Ave, Pawhuska, OK 74056.

The detailed Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Purchasing Office.

Osage Preference will be applied in awarding the contract in compliance with the Osage preference in Employment Law.

The Osage Nation reserves the right to reject any and all responses.

Please contact Tammy Leeper, Procurement Officer, with the Osage Nation Purchasing Office @ 918-287-5344 to request a copy of the detailed Request for Proposal.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to participate in a dissertation research study regarding the impact of out of home placement on American Indian people. Research supports the fact that there can be harm to the child "if efforts are made to change or replace the cultural values, beliefs, and traditions of a foster child with those of a different culture... as they are associated with chronic and serious health and social problems". (Brown et al., 2009, p. 120).

Participants will be asked to complete a packet of three short surveys regarding your life satisfaction, level of enculturation and a short demographic survey. This will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. As a participant, you will be offered the opportunity to participate in a drawing for 1 of 4 \$25 Visa gift cards, that will be dispersed as soon as all needed surveys have been collected.

This study will include American Indian participants that have been in the child welfare system and who were placed out of the home to include individuals who were raised in American Indian, Kin, and Non-Indian homes.

Participants will be required to be over the age of eighteen years old, and have experienced at least one out of home placement as a minor child.

If you are interested in this study, please inquire at 951-295-7038 or email: santanalmft@hotmail.com and a survey can be mailed to you. Or you can log on to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TP69VM2>

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ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING GRAPHIC | COURTESY WORTH GROUP

Wyandotte Nation Casino will undergo an extensive expansion and redesign - one that includes a bowling alley - to create more of a social gathering experience for their patrons.

Wyandottes unveil plan for \$30 million renovation, expansion

Wyandotte Nation Media Release

WYANDOTTE, Okla – Over the next year, the Wyandotte Nation Casino will undergo an extensive expansion and redesign to deliver an experience for patrons like no other in the region.

“We’ll offer things no one else in the area has,” said WNC General Manager Gary Johnson. “It gives us the ability to do the things we always wanted to do, but didn’t have the space to do it in.”

The \$7 million phase one renovation will give the casino a very modern and contemporary look, and expand it by 25,000 square feet to make room for new features such as a club, VIP lounge, a four-lane bowling alley, rooms for private parties, a billiards and darts area, and entertainment venue that will seat around 500 people. The master project overall is estimated at \$30 million for all phases.

“I think what we tried to accomplish when we set out on this project was something different from an entertainment perspective than what any of our competitors had,” said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino. Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma is the Wyandotte Nation’s federally chartered corporation and drives economic development for the Tribe.

“Whether it is a band, a concert, a comedian or whatever we choose – we wanted to create an experience where people can have more of a social gathering spot - a place where they could come for a night of fun.”

The entertainment venue will be available for large and small events, banquets, private parties and business meetings. Johnson said they plan to attract local, regional and national talent.

The interior of the casino will be redesigned and feature a new floor layout with expanded area for gaming.

In a highly competitive market, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said it is important to offer entertainment that sets the casino apart.

“When the team sat down and really got creative and came up with this project, we fell in love with it. We’re very excited about it. We are offering something different in the market we are in,” the Chief said. “Most people who aren’t from this area don’t understand how competitive it is. This sets us apart.”

Chief Friend said most expansions in this area have been on the hotel side or the gaming side of things. He said this project isn’t really focused on a gaming expansion, but more on providing another entertainment option for those who may not necessarily be into gaming, but maybe “want to come hear a band, dance or maybe even bowl a few games.”

Chief Friend said the expansion will also

create 30-40 more jobs in the area.

In addition to the other new features, the Twin Bridges Restaurant will be revamped with a contemporary look, nearly double in size and will include a martini bar, private dining and a new menu.

The Deli will also be moved with a new, larger dining area for guests.

The exterior will also feature a new façade as part of the overall project.

The project is expected to be completed in a 12-month timeframe. Crossland Construction Company, Inc. will handle the construction on the project. Crossland built the casino in 2007. The WorthGroup are the architects for the project.

The casino will remain open throughout the renovation. Areas of the casino will be closed off during the construction.



EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

NOVEMBER 13
Kiowa Class 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337, e-mail leonhawzipta@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER 15
Cmdr. John B. Herrington (Chickasaw), the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space, to speak at Comanche Nation College, James Cox Auditorium, 1608 SW 9th St., Lawton, OK. 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. For more information: 580-591-0203 or 580-353-7075.

White Eagle Health Fair at the White Eagle Cultural Center in

Ponca City. Run/Walk begins at 8am, booth viewing starts 9am to 12noon. Lunch will be provided. Contact info: 580-765-2501 xt. 2232, Jo Ann Springwater.

Oklahoma City Public Schools, Indoor Stomp Dance, US Grant High School, 5016 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK. Supper, 6:00 pm; Dancing, 7:00 pm. Vendors, Raffles, etc. For more information: 405-587-0355.

A Day of Celebration in Honoring Our Veterans Powwow. St Gregory’s University, Shawnee, OK. Arts and Crafts, Food and Dance Competition, 1pm - 10pm. Info contact Cynthia Longhorn, 405-273-4137. Vendors contact Wanda Tiger, 405-706-2357.

Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church annual Native Flair arts & crafts event, 10:30am-5pm, 1901 N College, Tulsa. Info call 918-834-1956 or 918-230-3181.

American Indian Heritage Month event: Traditional Dance with demonstrations. At the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, OK. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Free with museum admission. For more information, please contact us at education@okhistory.org or by phone at (405) 522-3602.

NOVEMBER 16 cont.
Indian Child Welfare Benefit Dance, sponsored by the employees of Cheyenne & Arapaho Indian Child Welfare. Concho Community Hall, Concho, OK. Contests! Proceeds go to ICW Foster Children Christmas Dinner & Presents. All Princesses welcome. Cake walks and raffles. Gourd Dances: 2:00 pm & 6:30 pm; Supper Break: 5:30 pm; Grand Entry: 8:00 pm. For more information and vendors: 405-422-7435.

1st Ever Oklahoma City Public Schools Powwow, US Grant High School, 5016 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK. Vendors, Contests, Raffles. Gourd Dancing, 2:00 pm; Supper, 5:00 pm; Grand Entry, 7:00 pm. For more information: 405-587-0355.

NOVEMBER 20
Kiowa Class Last day: meal and games, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337, e-mail leonhawzipta@yahoo.com. Spring semester dates will be published in January.

NOVEMBER 22
Toy Run, 12pm outside Pawnee, junction of HWYs 64 and 177. More info call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041

NOVEMBER 23
Birthday-Honor Dance for Herschel Kaulaity’s 80th Birthday at Concho Community Hall, Concho. Gourd Dance @ 1:00pm “Special Contest” Men’s “Old-Style” Northern Traditional (50 years & up) For more information please contact Mary Kaulaity @ (661) 654-7152

NOVEMBER 23
American Indian Heritage Month event: Traditional Women’s Clothing with demonstrations. At the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., OKC 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Free with museum admission. For more information, please contact us at education@okhistory.org or by phone at (405) 522-3602.

NOVEMBER 29-30
Choctaw Nation Powwow, Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant. For more info visit www.choctawcasinos.com.

DECEMBER 7
Winter Dance & Big Ticket Raffle at Sac and Fox Nation Gymnasium, south of Stroud on HWY 99. Raffles, cake walk and food. 70” Visio flat screen TV up for raffle! More info call Mary Brown, 918-968-2583.

TCIC Annual Christmas Bazaar, 8am-3pm. For more information contact TCIC (918) 298-2464 or Email: tulsacreekcommunity@yahoo.com



Shan Goshorn



Santee Frazier



Eddie Chuculate

Oklahoma artists honored with fellowships

VANCOUVER, Wash. – From a national call for entries to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) has awarded 2014 NACF Artist Fellowships to three Oklahoma artists.

Writer Eddie Chuculate (Muscogee Creek/Cherokee) of Muskogee, Okla. received a 2014 NACF Literature Fellowship. Renowned basket-weaver Shan Goshorn (Eastern Band Cherokee) of Tulsa, Okla. is a 2014 NACF Traditional Arts Fellow and poet Santee Frazier (Cherokee Nation of Okla-

homa) of Syracuse, N.Y. received a fellowship in literature.

The three talented artists are among 16 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists selected by the foundation to carry this honor in 2014. Each year, the Native-led arts foundation awards fellowships to recognize exceptional Native artists who have made a significant impact in the fields of dance, film, literature, music, traditional and visual arts. Chuculate, Goshorn and Frazier are the first Oklahoma artists to be awarded NACF Artist Fellowships.

For 2014, the foundation awarded \$220,000 to support

individual artists through NACF Artist Fellowships ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per artist. “It is our honor to present a dynamic new cohort of NACF Artist Fellows for 2014,” said NACF Program Director Reuben Roqueñi (Yaqui/Mexican). “Native artists are taking leadership in addressing critical issues across the country and act as catalysts for change in our communities. The fellowships support these artists as they delve deeper into their practices and cultivate their artistic voices to transport and inspire us. Join us in celebrating their adventurous and creative spirits.”

Chikasha House offers ‘home away from home’ for medical center

TONY CHOATE
Chickasaw Nation Release

ADA, Okla. – A Texas couple recently took a long, familiar road trip to Ada for medical treatment. This time, they found hospitality and comfort at the new Chickasaw Nation Chikasha House.

Since a diabetes diagnosis in the early 1990s, Gerald Ward, 75, has made the 428-mile drive from McQueeney, Texas, several times a year to seek medical care.

A Choctaw citizen, Ward has experienced care at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility and its successor, the new Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. He has always appreciated the compassionate care. On one occasion, he distributed Bedre Chocolates to the hospital staff as a thank you for excellent care during his stay.

Throughout their 32-year

marriage, Ruth Ward has been faithfully by her husband’s side. She has either spent the night in the hospital or with family members in the Ada area for the duration of their stay.

Now, those family members who have served as Ruth’s hosts, are aging. The Wards did not want to inconvenience them during a week-long trip when Gerald underwent minor surgery last month.

The Wards turned to the Chikasha House, located on the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center campus at 1921 Stonecipher Blvd.

Chikasha House offers a “home away from home” for family members of patients experiencing extended hospital stays.

Gov. Bill Anoatubby and dozens of Chickasaw citizens and community members dedicated the facility in July.

“Caring for our families is always a top priority,” Gov. Anoatubby said at the dedication. “The Chikasha House is designed to offer affordable, convenient and relaxing lodging to family members of patients who are far from home. We believe the Chikasha House can help bring peace of mind to patients and their loved ones facing this difficult situation.”

The mission of the Chikasha House was fulfilled during the Wards’ trip.

During their visit, they had high praise for the Chikasha House, hospital services, food quality and the exceptional customer service at both facilities.

“Everything is so convenient, everyone you meet here is extremely nice and the Okchamali’ cafe makes a super fine Western omelet,” Ward chuckled.

The experience also al-

lowed the couple to visit, play dominoes and spend quality time with family members and not burden them to provide lodging.

“We didn’t have to intrude on them,” said Ruth Ward.

A perpetual proponent of Chickasaw Nation health care, Ward shares his good experiences with his Texas friends and neighbors, most of whom are not familiar with the workings of the Indian Health System.

“I tell them I would put (the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center) up against any hospital in Texas, or anywhere for that matter. It is super clean and super nice,” he said. “Everything is first class all the way.”

By a twist of fate, one of his good friends, an Alaska Native, visited the Medical Center and understood Ward’s rave reviews.

“He was on his way to Arkansas for a wedding and he



COURTESY CHICKASAW NATION
Gerald and Ruth Ward, McQueeney, Texas, at the Chikasha House located on the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center campus in Ada, Okla.

began to feel ill,” said Ruth.

The friend called the Wards and got the address of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Clinic and made a visit. Later, the Wards heard rave reviews about his Chickasaw experience.

“He said, ‘Man, I have never been treated like this – this is the nicest place I have ever been,’” Ward recalled.

Ward is proud to be Na-

tive American. He strives to share that connection with the couple’s seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He is also grateful for the Chickasaw Nation embracing and sharing resources with other Native tribes.

“Even though I am Choctaw, the Chickasaws take care of me like I was their own,” he said.

EVERY 17 SECONDS

someone in the US is diagnosed with diabetes.

NEARLY 1 OUT OF 6

AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES HAS DIABETES.

COMMON MYTHS

Diabetes doesn't run in my family, so I'm safe.

Diabetes is caused by eating too much sugar.

People with diabetes need to follow a special diet.

THE FACTS

Family history is only one of several risk factors for type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 is caused by genetics and lifestyle factors. Being overweight increases your risk for developing type 2, and a diet high in calories from any source contributes to weight gain. Research has shown that sugary drinks are linked to type 2 diabetes.

People with diabetes benefit from the same healthy diet that is good for everyone else: plenty of whole grains and fruits and vegetables, with a limited amount of fat and refined sugar.

People diagnosed with diabetes, aged 20 years or older.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIVING WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES AT [DIABETES.ORG/TYPE2PROGRAM](https://diabetes.org/type2program)

1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

American Diabetes Association®

Inside this issue:

- Kansas tribes oppose Delaware move
- Comanche woman accepts father’s medal
- Native pride at heart of ‘Rock Your Mocs’



NATIVE TIMES



FELIPE DANA | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
A Kraho Indian man carries a tree trunk during a race at the indigenous games in Cuiaba, Brazil, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Around 1,600 Indians from 48 tribes are celebrating Brazil’s indigenous cultures during the 12th edition of the Games of the Indigenous People.

Tribes gather for Brazil’s 2013 Indigenous Games

FELIPE DANA
Associated Press

CUIABA, Brazil (AP) – Body paint in place of uniforms. Bare feet instead of high-tech shoes. And a loose notion of competition that assigns little value to winning.

Welcome to the 12th Indigenous Games being held in Brazil’s Amazon region, a cultural as much as athletic event that many are calling a “holistic” alternative to the big sporting extravaganzas Brazil will host in the next few years, the World

Cup in 2014 and the Olympics two years later.

“We’re not looking to crown champions or find great athletes,” said Carlos Terena, organizer of the games, who like many indigenous Brazilians uses his tribe’s name as his surname. “This isn’t about competition, it’s about celebration. Competition is more a thing for the Western world anyway.”

More than 1,500 participants from 48 Brazilian tribes, as well as from more than

See GAMES on Page 4

Commods programs preparing for uptick from cut SNAP users

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKMULGEE, Okla. – With cuts kicking in to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, some tribal food distribution programs are bracing for an

influx of new clients.

Without a new Farm Bill or federal budget in place, SNAP – formerly known as food stamps – took a \$5 billion funding reduction on Nov. 1 as the 2009 economic stimulus package expired. More than 47 million Americans nationwide participate in the

program, including 891,555 people in Oklahoma alone during 2012 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Despite using similar income requirements to SNAP, the Food Distribution

See COMMODS on Page 4

Osage Congress votes to proceed with removal trial for Red Eagle

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – Acting on a special committee’s recommendation, Osage Nation Congress voted unanimously Friday morning to proceed with a removal trial for Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

Introduced Thursday by Congressman Archie Mason, the vote stems from report issued last month by a five-

member Select Committee of Inquiry that investigated 15 allegations against the chief spanning three years. The removal trial will focus on six counts deemed by the committee to have enough evidence to warrant an impeachment hearing.

Among the accusations that will be considered at the removal trial:

– Interfering with an investigation of the Osage Nation Attorney General’s office on May 31.



Osage Principal Chief John Red Eagle

See TRIAL on Page 3

Obama says he will visit Indian Country in 2014

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Barack Obama told Native American leaders Wednesday that he will make his first trip as president to Indian Country next year, expanding on his vow to enhance the bond between the federal and tribal governments.

Obama told the tribal leaders at the fifth annual White House Tribal Nations Conference that the federal government still has work to do to sustain a strong relationship with tribal governments.

He said that the United States can do more to give tribes more control over their communities and that high rates of poverty among Native Americans are “a moral call to action.” In addition, he said, the federal



PETE SOUSA | COURTESY WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE
President Barack Obama greeted members of the Native American Women’s Colorguard and attendees of the annual Tribal Nations Conference on Nov. 13 in Washington, D.C.

Oklahoma tribal leaders, others meet with Obama

ADA, Okla. (AP) – Two tribal leaders from Oklahoma were among 12 Native American officials who recently met with President Barack Obama at the White House.

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes President Terri Parton were among the leaders who met with Obama on Tuesday, the day before the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This is the fifth year for the conference, which invites representatives from each of the 566 federally recognized tribes to discuss topics important to tribes.

Obama, administration officials and the tribal leaders discussed job creation, economic development and other issues important to

See OBAMA on Page 2

Supreme Court decisions could toss election results

Unofficial results released Nov. 5
Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Roberta Hamilton/Jerry Levi: 746
Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton/Cornell Sankey: 736

VS

Certified results published Nov. 6
Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Roberta Hamilton/Jerry Levi: 699
Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton/Cornell Sankey: 699

VS

Certified recount results released Nov. 13
Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton/Cornell Sankey: 723
Roberta Hamilton/Jerry Levi: 722

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Recount results from a Cheyenne and Arapaho faction’s Nov. 5 vote are still standing – at least for now. The tribes’ Supreme Court is considering two appeals that could toss the results from last month’s primary election.

The Supreme Court affiliated with Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell’s administration heard arguments Friday in two separate challenges contesting the execution of the tribes’ Oct. 8 primary election. On Wednesday, the election commission certified recount results naming Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton and Cornell Sankey as winners of the governor and

lieutenant governor race, but acknowledged prior to the count



that the decisions stemming from Friday’s hearings could force them to set those results aside.

The first challenge came from former governor Darrell Flyingman and his running mate, Adrianna Harris. After receiving a unanimous vote in July from the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration’s election commission to stay on the ballot, their names were removed due to

a previously unmentioned debt to the tribes’ housing authority. Under Cheyenne and Arapaho law, candidates must resolve any debt to the tribes before filing for office.

After a brief discussion, Justice Daniel Webber announced the need to deliberate due to dissention among the three justices, with a

See ELECTION on Page 4

Kansas tribes oppose move in by Delaware

Steve Cadue, chairman of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, said he believes the Delaware want to build a casino and if they are allowed to.

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – The Oklahoma-based Delaware Tribe could pursue casino operations in Kansas, but it also has a broader vision of increasing its presence in the state to provide services to Native Americans, according to a tribe official.

In an “open letter to the people of Kansas,” Chief Paula Pechonick said Saturday she wanted to address speculation about the tribe’s plans since it recently bought 90 acres in North Lawrence along the Kansas Turnpike, The Lawrence Journal World reported. Lands north of the Kansas River were the Delaware Tribe’s last home before they were forced to move into Oklahoma after the Civil War.

The Delaware Tribe’s efforts in Kansas have drawn opposition from the federally recognized tribes of Kansas, which all have casinos.

Leaders of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska and Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska said in a recent resolution that if the Delaware Tribe is successful in starting a casino in northeast Kansas it would cause “significant economic hardship” to the Kansas tribes.

Pechonick said a casino may be a possibility because “no tribe would ever take



Delaware Chief Paula Pechonick says her tribe wants the designation of a service area in Kansas.

gaming off the table as a viable option as long as it is legally available.”

But, she said, gambling is “nothing more than a means to an end, which provides our Tribe the resources to strengthen our community and bring up the lives of our people.”

The Delaware Tribe wants a future in Kansas and designation of a service area, Pechonick said.

“Aside from social and infrastructure services, the Tribe is focused on the economic impact to communities through job creation, support of small businesses and investment in community projects,” she said.

Steve Cadue, chairman of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, said he believes the Delaware want to build a casino and if they are allowed to, other tribes may also want to set up operations in Kansas.

“There is no doubt more than the Delaware Tribe would be interested in casino revenue in Kansas,” he said.

– Editor’s Note: You may read Chief Pechonick’s letter online at <http://www.nativetimes.com/index.php/life/commentary>

Report addresses public safety on tribal land

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A national panel of judicial and law enforcement experts traveled the country taking comment on public safety issues on American Indian reservations, where federal statistics show the violent crime rates can be 20 times the national average.

In Palm Springs, Calif., the Law and Order Commission heard about the patchwork of legal systems imposed on tribal members. In Alaska, commissioners talked with a leader who told them each of the dozens of Native women they had met that day had been raped. In Phoenix, they heard from Navajo police who said drunken drivers often travel onto the vast reservation undetected because of lack of communication between tribal officers and outside law enforcement.

What the commission came up with is a 324-page report that seeks to close gaps in public safety in tribal communities. The report, “Strengthening Justice for Native America: A roadmap,” was released Tuesday, a day ahead of the White House Tribal Nations Conference. The recommendations now go to Congress and the president.

Among the report’s 40 recommendations is giving tribes more control over crime and justice on their reservations, including an expansion of authority to prosecute non-Indians. The Tribal Law and Order Act and provisions of the

Violence Against Women Act do that to an extent. But Commission Chairman Troy Eid said federal laws and policies overall remain outdated and stand in the way of making tribal communities safer.

“If you can imagine a world where tribes have that authority, and you respect federal constitutional rights ... it starts to be a solvable problem,” he said. “People know what to do.”

The commission has set a 10-year goal to implement the recommendations, a date that would mark 100 years since American Indians were granted the right to vote. Some of the recommendations will require acts of Congress, while others such as requiring federal officials to testify in tribal court cases, can be implemented through policy changes, Eid said.

U.S. Department of Justice spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle said the department shares the commission’s commitment to strengthening public safety systems on reservations and recognizes that more needs to be done to combat crime. The agency has prioritized Indian Country cases in the past few years and built on partnerships with tribes.

“We look forward to studying the recommendations and working with stakeholders on solutions that can address the most challenging public safety issues confronting Native American communities,” Hornbuckle said.

The nine-member commission was established through the Tribal Law and Order Act, which expanded the

sentencing authority of tribal courts that meet certain criteria; allowed for the appointment of special U.S. attorneys to prosecute violent crimes on reservation land; and revamped training for reservation police officers.

The report touches on that law but also looks at grant funding for tribes, victim protection, policing Indian Country, tribal court systems that and educational services for tribal youth incarcerated in federal facilities.

One chapter of the report is dedicated to Alaska, a state with about 230 Native villages that was exempt from federal legislation to combat crime in Indian Country. Commissioner Jefferson Keel, a former president of the National Congress of American Indians, said those carve-outs should be eliminated, with Alaska Native communities given the ability to administer court systems that would instill respect for the law.

“Justice should not be tainted by race,” he said.

NCAI spokeswoman Melinda Warner said what she found interesting was that the federal government has provided almost no education funding for juveniles in federal lockups, or resources for rehabilitation. She said the benefit of the report is knowledge about the shortfalls in Indian Country.

“Without knowing exactly what’s going on, we can’t adequately fix it,” she said.

VISIT

Continued from Page 1

government needs to ensure that Native Americans have access to affordable health care and must help tribes be good stewards of their native homelands.

“Standing up for justice and tribal sovereignty, increasing economic opportunity, expanding quality health care, protecting native homelands – this is the foundation we can build on,” Obama said.

He recalled that as a candidate he visited Crow Agency, Mont., and vowed to visit tribal lands next year.

The Tribal Nations Conference represents the 566 federally recognized tribes.

The tribal leaders also heard from several Cabinet heads, including Attorney General Eric Holder.

Obama promised during his election campaign to regularly meet with tribal leaders, to hear directly from them about how his administration can meet their needs and help improve their lives.

OBAMA

Continued from Page 1

Native Americans at Tuesday’s meeting.

Anoatubby said the meeting is further evidence that the president is committed to working closely with tribes.

“President Obama’s administration has worked closely with tribal leaders to implement a number

of policies which have helped enhance the quality of life of Native Americans,” Anoatubby said in a statement. “He has developed a tribal consultation policy enabling leaders of American Indian tribes to have meaningful input into the development of policies which have enhanced housing, health care, education, economic development and law enforcement services in Indian Country.”

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JON AUSTRIA | COURTESY THE DAILY TIMES, FARMINGTON NM
College Academic Adviser Sherrie Benally wears her moccasins at her office.

Native pride at heart of ‘Rock Your Mocs’

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) – Elementary school students in western New Mexico are wearing their moccasins. So are students at Northern Arizona University, Purdue and the University of Michigan.

On the Cherokee Nation, there’s a waiting list for Friday’s moccasin-making class. And on a military base in Afghanistan, a soldier ties a beaded cross around her boot to symbolize her moccasins.

Friday was “Rock Your Mocs” Day.

Coinciding with Native American Heritage Month in the U.S., the social media campaign started by New Mexico student Jessica “Jaylyn” Atsyé has gone global.

The 21-year-old Laguna Pueblo member says the idea was simple – to set aside one day each year to wear moccasins to celebrate the cultures of Native Americans and other indigenous people.

“When someone asks you, ‘What do your shoes represent?’ or ‘What’s the story behind your moccasins?’ there can be endless descriptions,” she said. “They show who you are. They’re an identifier. They can bring unity.”

Moccasins historically were the footwear of many Native American tribes. Though their basic construction was similar throughout the country, the decorative elements including beadwork, quillwork, painted designs, fur and fringes used on moccasins varied from one tribe to another. Indian people often could tell each other’s tribal affiliation

simply from the design of their shoes, according to the nonprofit group Native Languages of the Americas.

Observers say the Rock Your Mocs campaign is helping to fuel a resurgence of Native American pride.

By Friday morning, a flurry of photographs had been posted on a Facebook page Atsyé set up for the movement. On Twitter and Instagram, Rock Your Mocs hashtags showcased hundreds of images, from simple deerskin wraps to knee-high versions adorned with colorful beadwork.

Then there were the mukluks lined with fur, like the ones being worn Friday by Jessica Metcalfe, a Turtle Mountain Chippewa from North Dakota who runs the Beyond Buckskin blog.

“Moccasins can be worn and appreciated by anybody. That’s what’s really cool about it,” she said. “It’s like you’re wearing these pieces of art. They’re all unique.”

Metcalfe and others said “Rock Your Mocs” is a chance to educate more people about indigenous cultures. In recent months, the headlines have focused on controversies over the Washington Redskins pro football team name and backlashes against Native American-inspired fashion designs that many in Indian Country have found in poor taste.

Atsyé said she wants to get away from the “whole racial thing.”

“The only way we’re going to be able to succeed is to move forward and forget all of that,” she said, outlining a string of trying times in Native American history. “We can’t change that. That happened in the past. Let’s focus on the things that we can change today.”

COMMODS

Continued from Page 1

Program on Indian Reservations did not sustain similar cuts. An alternative to SNAP, FDIPIR, also sometimes referred to as “food distribution” or “commods,” is a USDA supplemental nutritional program for Native families who live in rural areas and communities with a population of 10,000 residents or less.

Fourteen Oklahoma tribes and one inter-tribal organization are FDIPIR distributing agencies. Among those tribes is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which serves an average of 1200-1300 eastern Oklahoma families per month among its three tailgate sites, two distribution stores and more than 100 home deliveries to elders and disabled tribal citizens across the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s 11-county jurisdictional area.

Many of the communities within the tribe’s service area are small enough to allow residents who meet the income requirements to meet FDIPIR’s residency requirements. Although it is still too early to tell how many of those families will switch over from SNAP to commodities, Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials are already noticing an uptick in business and are preparing accordingly.

“We are already feeling the impact,” Food Distribution manager Anna Wright said. “We served 100 additional families last month.

“Fortunately, our funding did not

take a cut. With our program, as long as you are approved, then a family of four gets the same amount of food. We weren’t affected by the cuts like they (SNAP) were, but we will feel a greater impact in next two months through more applicants.”

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s food distribution program is working with a regional organization to monitor the potential affects on the program. Wright said they keep a two-month supply of commodities on hand at all times and will be closely watching to see how long that supply lasts before additional food is needed to meet the demand.

In addition to former SNAP clients switching over, recent changes to the income guidelines have FDIPIR programs expecting greater participation. As of Nov. 1, families could claim an eligibility deduction of up to \$300 for utility and shelter payments. Out-of-pocket medical payments of more than \$35 now also qualify as an eligibility deduction.

“SNAP participants have always been able to do that, but those deductions have just now been approved for FDIPIR,” Wright said. “It’s early to tell, but people on a fixed income who might have been just over the line

may now be eligible with a shelter deduction. This could really help those folks on fixed incomes.”



OKLA. TRIBES WITH FDIPIR DISTRIBUTION SITES:

- Apache Tribe: 405-247-5883
- Cherokee Nation: 918-207-3914
- Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes: 1-800-247-4612 ext. 27868
- Chickasaw Nation: 580-226-8289
- Choctaw Nation: 580-924-7773
- Comanche Nation: 580-492-3327
- *Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.: 918-542-3443
- Kiowa Tribe: 580-654-2618
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation: 918-549-2402
- Osage Nation: 918-287-5429
- Pawnee Nation: 918-762-2541
- Ponca Tribe: 580-762-3427
- **Sac and Fox Nation: 918-968-3030
- Seminole Nation: 405-382-3900
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes: 405-247-9677

**Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., serves citizens of the Miami, Eastern Shawnee, Ottawa, Peoria, Seneca-Cayuga, Modoc, Quapaw and Wyandotte tribes.
**The Sac and Fox Nation’s FDIPIR service area also includes the Absentee Shawnee, Iowa and Kickapoo tribes, along with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.*

GAMES

Continued from Page 1

a dozen other nations, descended this week on Cuiaba, the capital of Mato Grosso state, for the games that end Saturday. All participants will earn “medals” carved from wood, seeds and other natural items.

The more traditional tribal sports are carried out as exhibitions rather than competitions.

A crowd favorite is a wild tree-trunk relay race, with nine or more stout runners sprinting about 550 yards (500 meters) around a red-dirt arena, taking turns carrying a 220-pound (100-kilo) chunk of tree over their shoulders. Just getting to the finish line is considered victory.

Another sport called “xikunahity” resembles soccer, but with players crawling along the ground, only permitted to use their heads to push the ball forward. Several tribes have exhibited their own traditional forms of fighting, most resembling wrestling or judo.

Other events test the real-life skills of indigenous peoples, like archery, with bare-chested participants confidently carrying simple long bows, putting

their toes along a line of long palm leaves laid down on the earth. About 40 yards away sits their target, the large drawn figure of a smiling fish leaping from the water, with most points scored for drilling the arrow right into its eye.

“This is the fourth time I’m participating in these games and for me they represent a cultural revival more than anything,” said Yakari Kuikuro, who lives on the Xingu river in the Amazon and is part of his tribe’s tug-of-war team. “Many of my family members stopped painting their bodies, they no longer dance in the villages. When I come here, I see pure Indians, with body paint, dancing together. It’s important for others to see this and take it back to their villages.”

Chief Willie Littlechild of the Cree Nation, a former member of Canada’s Parliament, said attending the games was “truly a blessing, to see that such a rich culture exists with indigenous peoples around the world.”

For the non-indigenous people in attendance, Littlechild said he hoped the games allowed them “to join us in a celebration of life, to join us in our holistic approach to wellness, to the physical, the mental, cultural and spiritual well-being of humans.”

The games are held on a 17-acre (7-hectare) chunk of park, with large, white plastic tents dotting the land, each holding tables full of traditional crafts, like small pottery figures, wooden bowls, woven cloth and delicately carved musical instruments meant to mimic the songs of jungle birds.

Other tables hold the seeds of dozens of types of edible plants. Food security is one of the main themes of this year’s event, with tribes from all corners of Brazil encouraged to trade seeds and take unknown varieties back to their villages.

Amelia Reina Montero, from the Nahua tribe of Mexico who was making her first trip to Brazil, succinctly summed up the prevailing mood of the gathering, saying it offered the rare chance for tribes from the Americas, often with limited contact to the outside world, to interact and learn from one another.

“Despite that fact that our languages are different, that our skin varies, we’re uniting here with one heart,” she said. “That’s the Indian way.”

– *Associated Press Television News cameraman Mario Lobao contributed to this report.*

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

decision to be handed down within 10 days.

With the tribes facing an almost three-year old leadership schism, Flyingman and Harris were the only executive branch candidates to file with both claimant election commissions. They were also the only executive branch candidates to file with the commission affiliated with Leslie Wandrie-Harjo’s administration and were certified the unopposed winners in that commission’s election more than a month ago.

During Friday’s hearing, Flyingman testified that if reinstated to the Prairie Chief-Boswell commission’s ballot, he would honor the results, but would not set aside the other faction’s election certification due in part to an action pending with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals concerning the tribes’ ongoing constitutional crisis. No timeline has been given on when an IBIA decision will be handed down.

“I would not claim to be the governor until the IBIA court comes through with its decision,” Flyingman said. “I would have to wait until its ruling.”

Tribal citizen Joyce Wood of El Reno is also asking the court to overturn all results from the primary election. Among the

allegations in Wood’s challenge:

- Absentee ballots being mailed out as late as four days before the primary election. Under the tribes’ election code, absentee ballots must be sent out no later than 21 days in advance.

- Use of provisional ballots, which are not referred to in the tribes’ election code.

- Using the tribes’ enrollment list rather than the voter registration list to confirm whether someone could cast a ballot.

- By using clear plastic tubs for ballot boxes, voters could not cast ballots in secret.

- The election commission attempted to place constitutional amendments on the ballot that had not been approved by at least two-thirds of that faction’s legislature.

- Conducting a primary and a general election simultaneously despite no language in the tribes’ constitution or election code to allow it.

A tribal employee, Wood is Prairie Chief-Boswell’s executive assistant. Prairie Chief-Boswell and her running mate, Connie Yellowman, finished third in last month’s primary.

Court was adjourned Friday evening before closing arguments were presented in Wood’s case. The justices did not provide a timeline for when they would resume the matter, simply advising participants to “watch their mailboxes for a letter.”

None of the seven election commissioners were called to testify during Friday afternoon’s hearings and none attended the proceedings.

Citing security concerns from an announced protest, the tribes’ complex was closed Friday, with security personnel blocking access to the parking lots. Along with the tribe’s adjoining Lucky Star Casino, the facility was placed on high alert Wednesday afternoon due to alleged threats from another faction to enter the tribal offices “militant style.”

About 30 Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens, including many elders, participated in the peaceful protest. The group held signs outside the courthouse, chanted and aired their grievances about the election procedure using a megaphone.

“Darrell Flyingman should have been allowed to run for office. This election has been fraught with errors from the beginning to the end,” Vera Franklin said.

Franklin was also among the more than 20 tribal citizens who attended a special meeting of the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration’s election commission Tuesday evening to hear election challenges and recount requests from both executive branch tickets. Originally scheduled for 2 p.m., the meeting started four hours late due to lack of quorum.

Approving the recount requests late on Nov. 12 and conducting the

count into the early morning hours, the election commission certified recount figures in the race for governor and lieutenant governor on Nov. 13, giving Rollin “Eddie” Hamilton and Cornell Sankey the win by one vote.

Initial unofficial results had Roberta Hamilton and Jerry Levi winning the office by 10 votes, but the certification announcement issued on Nov. 6 had the race ending in a tie after 84 provisional ballots and one absentee ballot were disallowed due to one ballot being questioned by an election commissioner.

With incomplete files prompting the commission to seek out more than 3,000 citizens to re-register to vote during July and August, the ballots were introduced in an effort to not disenfranchise previously registered voters who might have missed the announcement. Provisional ballots could only be cast in the executive branch race and their use is not explicitly approved in the tribes’ election code or constitution.

Although provisional ballots were distributed for use in the primary election, Election Commissioner Anthony Spottedwolf said that not all of them were counted due to the margin between the second and third place finishers. However, both Spottedwolf and the election commission’s attorney, Michelle Cecilia, confirmed during the meeting that all of the provisional

ballots cast in the general election would be reviewed during the recount and those verified as being cast by eligible voters would be included.

Despite honoring the recount requests, the commission did not take any action on the election challenges filed by both executive branch campaigns over questions of ballot security, including allegations from the Hamilton/Levi campaign that on Nov. 6, at least one ballot box was left unattended in the main lobby of the tribal complex outside the conference room where votes were counted the night before.

After the initial count on Nov. 5, the ballots were stored in plastic tubs closed with zip ties. Members of the election commission denied leaving the storage containers out in the open and maintained that the boxes were locked up in the commission’s office after the ballot counting ended.

“What’s the point of having an office if you can’t put stuff in there?” interim chairman William Sankey asked.

Roberta Hamilton’s campaign confirmed Friday night it has filed a challenge to the recount with the election commission and has been advised of a Tuesday hearing on the matter. Her campaign still has an appeal pending with the tribes’ Supreme Court that was not heard during Friday’s session.

Church unites Native spirituality, Christianity

NIKKI TUNDEL
Minnesota Public Radio

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – Some people assume Jason Thunderbird prays to eagles. Others are convinced he worships rocks. They seem disappointed, he said, when they learn he spends Sunday mornings reciting liturgical texts from a church pew.

Native American spiritual practices are the source of countless misconceptions, he said. Mainstream society has long viewed American Indians as disciples of Mother Earth, but “all the stereotypical stuff you saw on John Wayne is not real.”

Thunderbird attends All Saints’ Episcopal Indian Mission in Minneapolis. It’s a tiny church – services average about 20 attendees – and one of just a handful of ministries in the country that unite the spiritual customs of indigenous communities with the religious traditions of Christianity.

During worship, the Rev. Robert Two Bulls covers the altar with a star quilt. Instead of burning incense, he opts for sweet grass.

Two Bulls is a fourth generation Episcopalian. He’s been a priest for 13 years. Yet he’s frequently asked if he truly wants to be a Christian.

His answer is always the same.

“I’m a follower of Jesus Christ,” he told Minnesota Public Radio. “That’s kinda what it boils down to, you know.”

For America’s Indigenous

people, late 19th century Christianity meant forced assimilation and cultural domination. Through government-sponsored boarding schools, Christian missionaries worked to convert Native children, who were often referred to as “savages.”

Generations later, Native Americans who chose Christianity were said to have “sold out” to white people. In some circles, they’re still considered traitors.

“Why embrace Christianity?” is a question congregant Melody Spears hears often.

“Some of my relatives are anti-church,” she said. “There’s just bitterness, I guess. I think it’s their way of coping with what has happened in the past in our history with the church.”

Attitudes are slowly changing, though, said Melody’s mother, former vicar Melanie Spears.

“People are not forgetting what happened in the boarding schools,” Melanie Spears said. But, they “allow themselves to come into a new part of what makes sense for them spiritually.”

For 3 percent of American Indians, that means praising a Christian god while honoring the traditions of their non-Christian ancestors.

At All Saints’ church, Native traditions include Native foods.

“There are two buffalo roasts there and two more here and they’re still cooking,” said congregant

Charmaine Bird, as she pointed around the bustling kitchen.

For the last five years, the church has operated First Nations Kitchen, an outreach program that provides free Sunday night dinners to those in need. It averages 90 visitors per week, Native and non-native.

“I like the fact it’s Indigenous food,” volunteer Wendy Johnson said on a recent afternoon as she chopped vegetables for a wild rice salad. “So they’re serving people their diet that would have been their diet had they not been oppressed.”

The program is open to everyone, no matter their ethnicity or beliefs, said Bird.

“We don’t proselytize. We don’t make people pray to eat. I think we try to practice what we don’t preach in this case,” she laughed.

Worshippers gather in front of a beaded cross as the sounds of a traditional Indian drum fill the sanctuary.

Integrating indigenous practices with Christian customs isn’t always easy.

Some feel uncomfortable with scripture being read in Native languages. Others refuse to see how drums can produce “church music.” But that’s all secondary compared to the process of creating community, Melody Spears said.

“I’m not really around a lot of Native people,” Spears admitted. “It’s rare for me to be in a class with another Native American. Just being around people



NIKKI TUNDEL | COURTESY MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

Rev. Robert Two Bulls takes a look around All Saints’ Episcopal Indian Mission on Nov. 3, 2013. He’ll prepare the sanctuary of the Minneapolis, Minn., church for an evening celebration.

who are Native American is comforting to me.”

Bird is a fixture at All Saints’. But as a descendant of Blackfoot Indians, she never imagined a life devoted to the church.

“I was really angry for a long time. I would tell people. ‘No, I’m not a Christian. I don’t want anything to do with something that,’” she told MPR.

She views things differently, she said, now

that she’s older.

“I can look at some of these things and go ‘It really has nothing to do with the person of Jesus,’” she said. “What that embodies for me has nothing to do with the things other people do in the name of Christ.”

To some, American Indians who accept Christianity are also accepting two opposing belief systems, though Bird says nothing could be further from the truth. Sweat lodges

and stained glass aren’t so far apart.

“The deeper you go into any spiritual practice, how can you not see that it’s related to all deeper spiritual practices?” she asked.

“Yes, the disciplines have different origins in the human world,” she said. “But spirit is spirit. I don’t care what tradition it is. If there’s anything that helps to heal the people, I think it’s really important.”

Students ban ‘R*dsk*ns,’ get sent to principal

Student newspaper editors started getting heat from school officials after an Oct. 27 editorial that barred the use of the word “R*dsk*ns” – the nickname of school teams.

MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – When a high school newspaper at a suburban Philadelphia football powerhouse decided the word “R*dsk*ns” had no place in its pages, the paper’s student editors found themselves called to the principal’s office.

The dispute between Neshaminy High School’s paper, the Playwickian, and school administrators is a strange twist on the fight over what students can and can’t say: this time it’s the students urging restraint.

The Playwickian editors started getting heat from school officials after an Oct. 27 editorial that barred the use of the word “R*dsk*ns” – the nickname of the teams at Neshaminy, a school named for the creek where the Lenape Indians once lived.

“Detractors will argue that the word is used with all due respect. But the offensiveness

of a word cannot be judged by its intended meaning, but by how it is received,” read the editorial backed by 14 of 21 staff members. (An equally well-written op-ed voiced the dissenting group’s opinion.)

The ban comes as Native American activists and a few media outlets, along with President Barack Obama, challenge the moniker of Washington’s NFL team, which visits Philadelphia on Sunday.

At Neshaminy – where the welcome sign sometimes reads: “Everybody do the R*dsk*n Rumble” and the football team is 11-1 with a shot at its second state title – news editors had pledged to stop using the term “R*dsk*ns” as far back as 2001, but sometimes wavered. This year’s staff decided to take it on full-force.

“You are not afraid to write about the hard and sensitive issues. You take risks on editorial pages – bravo!” judges wrote last month in a student journalism contest, when the Playwickian earned a top award.

Nonetheless, Principal Robert McGee ordered the editors to put the ban on hold, and summoned them to a meeting after school Tuesday, according to junior Gillian McGoldrick, the editor-in-chief.

“People are (saying), ‘Just give in. It doesn’t really matter.’ But it’s a huge deal, that we’re being forced to say something that we don’t

want to,” said McGoldrick, a 16-year-old junior.

McGee called the editors’ motives “valiant,” but said the dispute pits the rights of one group of students against another.

His approximately 2,600 students must each publish an article in the Playwickian for course credit. He doesn’t think anyone should be barred from writing about the Neshaminy R*dsk*ns, especially, he said, when the harm alleged is open to debate.

“I don’t think that’s been decided at the national level, whether that word is or is not (offensive). It’s our school mascot,” said McGee, who said he’s consulted with the school solicitor and others. “I see it as a First Amendment issue running into another First Amendment issue.”

School officials had also ordered the Playwickian to run a full-page, \$200 ad – submitted by a Class of ‘72 alumnus – celebrating the “R*dsk*n” name, McGoldrick said.

In response, the nonprofit Student Press Law Center and other groups bought a rival ad detailing the “Freedom of Expression” students enjoy under state and federal law. That ad is set to appear in the edition due out Wednesday, although the alumnus pulled the pro-R*dsk*ns ad late last week, McGoldrick said.

Both the student law center and the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania believe school districts are on shaky ground if they try to compel students to use a given word, especially one the students deem offensive.

“I understand that there’s an inclination to want to protect a tradition at the school. But the First Amendment is a longer and a better-established tradition,” said Frank LoMonte, executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va.

“It’s exactly what we tell young people in the abstract we want them to do: use their voices in positive ways to bring about social change. And yet when they tried to do it in practice, the school slapped them down,” he said. “That’s a bad place for an educator to be.”

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LETTER: Team Nickname not offensive

Ray Halbritter and all those who say to change the teams name “Red Skins” because they say it is offensive to them. Well, I am half Choctaw and half White. All bridges, states and NFL teams that have an Indian name is not offensive to me and I’m sure it is not to a lot of people.

Instead of complaining about something so small as a name that has been there forever and that some people are proud of, stand up and fight for something more important such as our freedom here in the United States of America.

People picked on Paula Dean because she said the “N” word at some point in her life. Those same people I’m sure have said the “N” word at some point and may still say it. I say to embrace who and what you are. Because you were born the “N” word and any other race you were born. Of course President Obama said he would change the team name. He is a black man and he would not want his team if he owned them to be called the “Red Skins”, he would probably call them an African name.

Again I say to stand up and fight for something more important.

Such as we did not ask for another health

plan, but President Obama put one into law which is against the Constitution which is The Supreme Law of the Land. The government works for the people and protects the rights of people.

The First Amendment says that Congress may not pass laws that establish an official religion and may not limit religious expression. It also gives people the right to petition the government to change laws or acts that are not fair. The rule of law means that everyone, citizens and leaders, must obey the laws. So if we have to have Obama care, so does the President and all Congress. But I say we did not ask for another insurance plan because there are so many out there and he and a lot of others just wasted millions of tax payers dollars for nothing but a botched up plan which he and Congress do not intend to get because they think they don’t have to. But the Constitution says otherwise. They could also have used the money they wasted on keeping the War Memorial open and putting it toward cutting the deficit. Fight to get the prayer and Bible back in school and anywhere else that it can do people good if they want to here. Don’t shut out God because He Is The Answer to all our problems.

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Please submit a résumé or application to the Human Resources Office. For more information, please contact Human Resources, humanresources@bacone.edu. Bacone is a private college with a mission to provide opportunities to Native American students and employees. EOE

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The detailed Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Purchasing Office.

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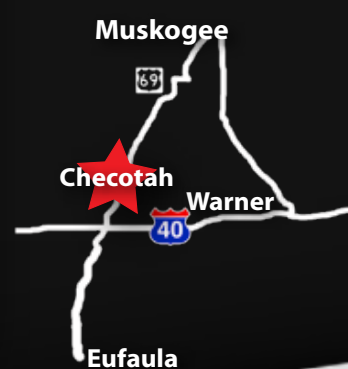
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*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcr.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

NOVEMBER 20
Kiowa Class Last day: meal and games, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337, e-mail leonhawzipta@yahoo.com. Spring semester dates will be published in January.

NOVEMBER 22
White Eagle Health Fair, Theme is "Health and Culture are the Perfect Gift." Beginning at 8:00am –Health Walk, then 9:00 to 12noon-Booth viewing. Free lunch provided. Event was originally scheduled for Nov. 15 but had to be cancelled.

NOVEMBER 22
Toy Run, 12pm outside Pawnee, junction of HWYs 64 and 177. More info call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041

NOVEMBER 22
Native Pride Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair Native Pride holiday arts & crafts fair 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Otoe Missouria Cultural Building 8151 Hwy 177 Red Rock, Oklahoma Vendor Information: 580-723-4466 Ext. 214 Hosted by the WIA Program "Support Native Entrepreneurship"

NOVEMBER 23
Birthday-Honor Dance for Herschel Kaulaity's 80th Birthday at Concho Community Hall, Concho. Gourd Dance @ 1:00pm "Special Contest" Men's "Old-Style" Northern Traditional (50 years & up) For more information please contact Mary Kaulaity @ (661) 654-7152

NOVEMBER 23
American Indian Heritage Month event: Traditional Women's Clothing with demonstrations. At the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., OKC 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Free with museum admission. For more information, please contact us

as education@okhistory.org or by phone at (405) 522-3602.

NOVEMBER 23
The Ponca Tribe MSPI program will be hosting a gourd dance at the Cultural Center from 2:00 pm to 10 pm with dinner served at 5 pm.

NOVEMBER 29
Native American Heritage Day - Native Times staff break - no publication

NOVEMBER 29-30
Choctaw Nation Powwow, Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant. For more info visit www.choctawcasinos.com.

DECEMBER 7
Winter Dance & Big Ticket Raffle at Sac and Fox Nation Gymnasium, south of Stroud on HWY 99. Raffles, cake walk and food. 70" Visio flat screen TV up for raffle! More info call Mary Brown, 918-968-2583.

TCIC Annual Christmas Bazaar, 8am-3pm. For more information contact TCIC (918) 298-2464 or Email: tulsacreekcommunity@yahoo.com or visit 8611 South Union Ave, Tulsa, OK

DECEMBER 20
Annual Bykes 4 Tykes Community Children's Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. at the Pawnee Nation Roundhouse on the Pawnee

Nation Reserve in Pawnee. There will be a drawing for bicycles for children of the community. Also, all children receive candy sacks and Santa hats. Santa and Pawnee Bill and his horse will be at the party. Bring a camera to have your pictures taken with both and join in the carols. For more information, call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041.

*Want to make a donation to Bykes 4 Tykes? Call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041 or reach him by mail at the address: 812 Granite St., Pawnee, OK, 74058. Bykes 4 Tykes will accept donations up to the day of the Dec. 22 Christmas party for the purchase of additional children's bicycles.

DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 3
Native American Times Winter Break - Publishing to resume week of January 6th.

DECEMBER 31
Annual New Years Eve Sobriety Powwow sponsored by Friends of Sobriety in memory of Niles Bosin. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm at Cox Convention Center, 100 Civic Center, Tulsa, Okla. Info call Lorraine, 918-639-7999 or email Lorraine at choctaw1865@yahoo.com.

Comanche woman collects father’s congressional medal

ELVYN JONES
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) – Gail Reed remembers her late father, Wellington Mihecoby, as a verbose man with a booming voice.

“Daddy was very vocal,” said Reed, of Baldwin City. “He loved to talk in public, and he never used a microphone.”

But her father could be reticent on some topics. For example, he rarely talked about his service in World War II and never spoke about how he used that distinctive loud voice with the U.S. Army’s 4th Signal Corps.

The reason, Reed said, was that it was a top-secret mission and continued to be so after his discharge in August 1945.

Her father was a Comanche code talker in Europe during World War II. From frontline positions, the code talkers sent radio or field telephone reports that eavesdropping Germans couldn’t understand to fellow Comanches posted in rear headquarters.

The Comanche code talkers, as well as those from 24 other American Indian tribes, will be recognized for their service with a Congressional Gold Medal at a Nov. 20 ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Building. Eight other tribes will receive the medal at a later date.

The presentation of the nation’s highest civilian honor to the tribes will end a nine-year effort to secure the honor. Only one of the code talkers from the tribes to be honored is still alive. Reed’s father, a department head at the Navajo Boarding School in Shiprock, N.M., died in 1975 of complications from diabetes, she said.

Lanny Asepermy, veterans’ historian for the Comanche Nation, said Mihecoby was one of 17 young tribal men fluent in Comanche who

answered the U.S. Army’s call in December 1941 for a special assignment. They all knew each other from attending Fort Sill Indian School.

“They dressed in military

and Reed said. As such, he assumed a leadership position with the code talkers.

Although mostly silent about his wartime experiences, Mihecoby

or one week before his 31st birthday, the discharge papers state that Mihecoby followed the Normandy campaign with participation in the liberation of northern France, took a detour to fight

Most Native American code talkers served in the Pacific because the German command was aware Americans used four Comanche and a number of Choctaws in World War I for

Comanche and code talkers from all tribes developed code words that hid the meaning of messages they communicated.

The Navajo’s exploits were best known because 420 code talkers, more than from any other tribe, served in with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater, Asepermy said.

With the recognition that came with those numbers, the Navajo code talkers were recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal in 2000, Asepermy said. The efforts to secure the same honor for those from other tribes began in 2006. As the point person for the Comanche, he traveled from his Lawton, Okla., home to Washington, D.C., annually from 2006 through 2008 to lobby for the measure.

“Congressional Gold Medals have to be approved by two-thirds majorities of both houses,” Asepermy said. “It failed four times before it passed.”

Reed said she would be among the Comanche delegation at the ceremony with her younger sister and brother and two sons, Tony and Scott.

Comanche Nation officials will receive the Congressional Gold Medal, while she will receive a silver replica and grandchildren will receive bronze replicas, she said.

France recognized the Comanche code talkers’ contribution in the fight to liberate that country in 1989 with a Chavalier of the National Order of Merit, Reed said. And the French have invited the descendants of the code talkers on an expenses-paid trip to be part of a ceremony in Normandy, she said.

“I’ll be able to walk where he landed on Utah Beach,” she said. “Daddy would have liked that.”



Gail Reed, of Baldwin City, before heading to Washington, D.C., to pick up a Congressional Gold Medal that is being presented posthumously to her father, a Comanche code talker in World War II.

MIKEYODER | COURTESY LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD

uniforms there and had drills,” he said. “They all hunted, so they knew how to use a rifle. They would have been familiar with military routine when they joined the Army.”

They weren’t allowed to speak their native language while at the school, Asepermy said.

Mihecoby was the oldest of the recruits and among the best educated, Asepermy

did tell his children he was among those who hit Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. But Reed said she didn’t know what he did after D-Day and the battle for Normandy that followed.

That story is briefly told in the discharge papers her father preserved inside a leather pouch, along with a 1947 newspaper clipping about his wedding.

Issued on Aug. 24, 1945,

in the Battle of the Bulge and then crossed into Germany for the Rhineland campaign. At the end of the war in May 1945, he was fighting in central Europe.

The duties in forward positions put the Comanche in dangerous positions but all survived the war. His discharge papers reveal Mihecoby was awarded a bronze and a silver star for his actions in combat.

the same purpose, Asepermy said. In an attempt to reduce their effectiveness in another war, German researchers were sent to the United States in the 1930s to learn Native American languages.

Asepermy said he didn’t know if the Comanche language was one of those the Germans studied. But it would have done the Germans no good because, as part of their training, the

EVERY 17 SECONDS

someone in the US is diagnosed with diabetes.

NEARLY 1 OUT OF 6

AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES HAS DIABETES.

COMMON MYTHS

Diabetes doesn't run in my family, so I'm safe.

Diabetes is caused by eating too much sugar.

People with diabetes need to follow a special diet.

THE FACTS

Family history is only one of several risk factors for type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 is caused by genetics and lifestyle factors. Being overweight increases your risk for developing type 2, and a diet high in calories from any source contributes to weight gain. Research has shown that sugary drinks are linked to type 2 diabetes.

People with diabetes benefit from the same healthy diet that is good for everyone else: plenty of whole grains and fruits and vegetables, with a limited amount of fat and refined sugar.

People diagnosed with diabetes, aged 20 years or older.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIVING WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES AT [DIABETES.ORG/TYPE2PROGRAM](https://diabetes.org/type2program)

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Inside this issue:

- **Cherokees blast legal fee recovery effort**
- **Non-profit offers free low vision workshops**
- **Caterer seasons with love & spirit**



NATIVE TIMES



PHOTO COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John Barrett and Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, signed off on an agreement under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act that gives the tribe sole leasing authority of its trust land on Nov. 25 in Shawnee, Okla.

CPN signs HEARTH agreement with Interior

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

SHAWNEE, Okla. – The Citizen Potawatomi Nation now has greater control over its trust land thanks to a new pact with the federal government. On Nov. 25, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John Barrett and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn signed off on an agreement under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act that gives the Shawnee-based tribe sole leasing authority of its trust land. “It’s been a great concern of ours over the years that we haven’t been able to fully leverage our investments in brick and mortar assets,” Barrett said. “This is a

See **HEARTH** on Page 2

Osage Nation sets trial to remove chief

PAWHUSKA, Okla. (AP) – The Osage Nation Congress has scheduled a Jan. 13 trial on proceedings seeking the ouster of Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

Red Eagle faces charges stemming from six allegations. He’s accused of malfeasance in office, arrogation of power and disregarding his constitutional duties and oath of office, according to The Examiner-Enterprise. He has also been accused of abuse of the government process and undermining the integrity of the office.

Members of a congressional committee had initially recommended Red Eagle be removed from office after they investigated 15 accusations against the chief since he took over the position of executive leader of the tribe in mid-2010.

See **OSAGE** on Page 2




Osage Principal Chief John Red Eagle

BIA: Who’s your leader? C&A per cap checks on hold

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

CONCHO, Okla. – Thanks to their tribes’ protracted leadership dispute, Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens will not be getting their December per capita payments on time. According to a letter obtained by the Native Times on Nov. 26, the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ agency office in Concho denied a drawdown request by the Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell administration from two of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ trust accounts. Among the withheld \$3 million in lease funds are \$1.6 million in oil and gas leases that provides an annual December per capita payment for tribal citizens.



See **CHECKS** on Page 2

Code Talker says team nickname not derogatory

MATTHEW BROWN and FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

A leader of the Navajo Code Talkers who appeared at a Washington home football game said Wednesday the team name is a symbol of loyalty and courage – not a slur as asserted by critics who want it changed.

Roy Hawthorne, 87, of Lupton, Ariz., was one of four Code Talkers honored for their service in World War II during the Monday night game against the San Francisco 49ers.

Hawthorne, vice president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, said the group’s trip was paid for by the team. The four men met briefly with team owner Dan Snyder but did not discuss the name, Hawthorne said.

Still, he said he would endorse the name if asked, and the televised appearance in which three of the Indians wore team jackets spoke for itself.

“We didn’t have that in mind but that is undoubtedly what we did do,” Hawthorne said when asked if he was intending to send a statement with the appearance. “My opinion is that’s a name that not only the team should keep, but that’s a name that’s American.”

Monday night’s brief, on-field ceremony came as some Indians and civil rights leaders wage a “Change the Mascot” campaign that targets the term *r*ds*k*ns* as a racial epithet.

The Navajos’ appearance drew

See **NAME** on Page 4



PHOTO COURTESY HEALING THE WARRIOR’S HEART
Medicine Man Arnold Thomas has conducted the Sweat Lodge ceremonies for nearly a decade.

Film looks at Native traditions to heal PTSD

ELAINE BASSIER
Elko Daily Free Press

ELKO, Nev. (AP) – Native American traditions may be the key to helping modern-day veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Taki Telonidis, the producer for the Western Folklife Center’s media office in Salt Lake City, has been working on a documentary called “Healing the Warrior’s Heart” that explores the ways some Native American tribes treat their veterans when they return from war. Telonidis said around two million Americans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some come home fine, others have life-changing injuries and “many are coming home with invisible drama,” or PTSD. Some tribes refer to PTSD as a wounding of the soul, Telonidis said. Part of the veteran’s spirit is still on the battlefield, and he said the tribes have traditions that can heal his or her heart. “What they’re trying to do is bring their spirit home,” Telonidis told the Elko Daily Free Press. He said a lot of Native Americans

See **PTSD** on Page 3

HEARTH

Continued from Page 1

huge step forward.”

Enacted in July 2012, the HEARTH Act restores the authority of federally recognized tribes to develop and implement their own laws governing the long-term leasing of Indian lands for residential, business and other purposes. Upon one-time approval of tribal regulations by the Department of the Interior, tribes have the authority to process land leases without seeking additional permission from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for each individual application.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is the sixth tribe in the country and the first in Oklahoma to sign off on a HEARTH Act agreement. Other tribes with similar pacts include the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the Sandia Pueblo, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians.

“This gets the federal government out of tribes’ way,” Washburn said. “If someone wants to lease tribal land for a house or a commercial development,

the BIA would have to approve it even if the tribe is on board. Frankly, in these tight financial times, we’re short staffed and sometimes, commercial developers have had to walk away and invest elsewhere.

“With this approved tribal ordinance, there’s no more waiting around on the BIA.”

The tribe already has a business lined up to take advantage of the new ordinance. BDC Arms and Ammunition, owned by Citizen Potawatomi Nation citizen Jack Barrett, is moving its gun range and outdoor sporting goods store near the tribe’s complex on South Gordon Cooper Drive.

“We have tribal members across the country wanting to come home and do business here,” Citizen Potawatomi Nation Vice Chairman Linda Capps said. “This will help make that possible. We want our members to benefit from this as well and we think they will.”

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has about 30,000 enrolled citizens and roughly one-third live in Oklahoma.

CHECKS

Continued from Page 1

“Regrettably, the Concho agency cannot honor your request for federal action as of this date because the agency does not know with certainty the identities of the validly seated governor, lieutenant governor and members of the legislature for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes,” agency superintendent Betty Tippeconnie wrote in the letter, dated Nov. 21.

The tribe has been dealing with a constitutional crisis for almost three years, with both Prairie Chief-Boswell and Leslie Wandrie-Harjo each claiming to be the legitimate governor. The two women ran for office and were inaugurated together in January 2010, but their alliance dissolved within a year over a series of allegations. Since the women’s political partnership fell apart, each has formed her own government, claiming to be the legitimate authority over the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Boswell and her supporters are working out of the tribal complex in Concho, while Wandrie-Harjo and her government is based out of nearby El Reno, Okla.

Federal law gives the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration 30 days to

appeal the decision to the Southern Plains regional office in Anadarko or it will become final.

The Prairie Chief-Boswell administration did not respond to requests for comment. In a statement posted to her Facebook page, the other claimant governor urged her counterpart to negotiate a compromise in order to have the per capita payment funds released.

“All of us members need those per capita monies,” Wandrie-Harjo wrote. “We have suffered enough.”

“Boswell needs to swallow her pride for the well-being of the members and meet with me and the BIA to get this per cap out or she needs to step down so the BIA and I can get the money out to the members.”

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court affiliated with the Prairie Chief-Boswell administration has not handed down a decision in either pending appeal of the tribes’ Oct. 8 primary election. The justices heard appeals from former governor and disqualified gubernatorial candidate Darrell Flyingman and tribal member and employee Joyce Woods on Nov. 15 and initially announced that a decision would be handed down within 10 days. No verdict had been announced by press time.

OSAGE

Continued from Page 1

A report from the Osage Congress’ Select Committee of Inquiry alleges Red Eagle interfered with and tried to stop a tribal attorney general’s investigation; refused to uphold a tribal law; improperly forbade disciplinary action against a tribal Election Board employee; and that he misused more than \$73,000 in Osage Nation money.

Red Eagle is also accused of failing to comply with news media requests under the tribe’s open meetings law and used Osage money to pay an employee to develop and maintain his personal website.

Red Eagle has called the panel’s action an overreach of power.

Before the trial starts, the Osage Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling examining the tribe’s removal process. Red Eagle filed a lawsuit against Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress Raymond Red Corn and Alice Buffalohead, chairwoman of the select committee. The tribal court said last week that a ruling would be issued by the end of the year.

The Osage Congress voted unanimously last month to hold a removal trial for Red Eagle that would be conducted by the Congress. A justice from the tribal Supreme Court would preside over the proceeding. A judgment for removal of Red Eagle would require concurrence of five-sixths of the members of the Congress.



Melanie and Matt Capobianco pose with Veronica Brown after an unfavorable ruling from the Oklahoma Supreme Court prompted the girl's father, Dusten Brown, to hand his daughter over to the South Carolina couple.

COURTESY

Cherokee Nation blasts legal fee recovery effort

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – Court documents filed by the Cherokee Nation state it would be “inappropriate, unreasonable and unconscionable” for the adopted parents of a 4-year-old Cherokee girl to seek more than \$1 million in legal fees.

The tribe claims federal and state law gives the tribe sovereign immunity. But that would not apply to Dusten Brown, the biological father who had custody of Veronica for two years and fought a legal battle to keep her in Oklahoma.

With custody of the girl awarded to Matt and Melanie Capobianco, the South Carolina couple has filed a motion to collect more than \$1 million in attorneys’ fees from Brown and his tribe. The Tulsa World reports that a judge in Nowata County, where the Brown family lives, will likely have a hearing on the issue, but no date has been set.

The Cherokee Nation’s assistant attorney general, Chrissi Nimmo, filed the arguments for the tribe, while Brown has separate attorneys. But the tribe said Brown was only thinking of his daughter when he fought court

orders from South Carolina to hand over the girl.

“Cherokee Nation and Dusten Brown repeatedly asked every court involved to consider the present day circumstances,” the tribe said, “and determine what was best for Veronica.”

The Capobiancos have accused Brown and the tribe of dragging out the litigation by refusing for several weeks to obey a court order from South Carolina.

Brown and the tribe, however, were only doing what the Capobiancos themselves did in 2011, when courts originally ordered them to surrender custody of Veronica, according to the tribe’s argument.

The Capobiancos appealed the decision for several weeks before giving the girl, who was then 2 years old, to her biological father, according to court records.

One of the couple’s lawyers claims the Cherokee Nation waived its immunity by intervening in the case.

“It is also disappointing that they would try to hide behind immunity,” Lori Alvino McGill told the newspaper,

“and leave Mr. Brown holding the bag.”

The Capobiancos arranged a private adoption with Brown’s ex-fiancee in 2009, but the tribe helped him win custody in 2011 by arguing that he never willingly gave up his parental rights.

The Capobiancos appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where they successfully argued that Brown didn’t have standing under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, which had been a factor in the lower courts’ ruling in his favor.

With ICWA no long applying to the case, South Carolina’s high court reversed itself, ruling this summer that Brown’s consent wasn’t necessary for the adoption.

The Capobiancos spent two months in Oklahoma trying to enforce that decision, landing in half a dozen different court rooms across five separate counties.

Brown finally handed Veronica over Sept. 23 after an unfavorable ruling from the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Blackfeet Tribal Business Council splits again

KALISPELL, Mont. (AP) – Two factions of a divided Blackfeet Tribal Business Council have split again.

The Flathead Beacon reports that Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. on Thursday expelled Councilman Leonard Guardipee and replaced him with Allen Shane Goss.

“We’ve lost all good faith in Chairman Sharp and Councilwoman Forestina Calf Boss Ribs,” said Councilman Shannon Augare. “We’re taking steps backwards. Willie Sharp has created his own fantasy land of power where he’s not just the chairman, he’s the whole council.”

Internal disputes split the governing council in October as each faction called for its own designated person to be named tribal treasurer, causing a halt to the tribe’s payroll.

That impasse was solved earlier this month, and the two sides had agreed to meet Monday to discuss reuniting the split government.

Now, Sharp says the council has a quorum. But Augare says Sharp’s faction overstepped its authority.

Roger “Sassy” Running Crane said he expects that the Bureau of Indian Affairs will likely reject Goss’ appointment and that Guardipee’s expulsion will be reversed.

“(Goss) was a custodian two days ago and now he’s been illegally appointed to the highest office in Blackfeet Country,” Augare said.

Augare said the problems in the Blackfeet tribal government stem from a flawed constitution that should be changed.

“It doesn’t matter what side you’re on, I think we can all agree that there are a lot of loopholes in our constitution,” Augare said. “This is the perfect time to bring about constitutional reform and that discussion should include all sides of the council.”

President of Native American focused charity indicted on embezzlement charges

BRANDON ECOFFEY
Native Sun News

PORTLAND, Ore. – Brian Brown, the president of National Relief Charities has been indicted and arrested for allegedly defrauding the organization of \$4 million dollars.

National Relief Charities is an organization supposedly dedicated to aiding Native American communities on the Plains and in the Southwest. According to the company’s website the mission of the charity is, “To help Native American people improve the quality of their lives by providing opportunities for them to bring about positive changes in their communities.”

The organization claims to have helped over 420,000 Native people last year alone and claims to send more than 5 million pounds of goods to Native people each year.

Brown, 56, was arrested on the morning of the Oct. 20 at the Portland Airport where he was returning from a trip to Thailand and Japan according to Oregon TV station Fox12.

The indictment that was unsealed charges Brown with conspiracy



Brian Brown

to defraud the organization. The conspiracy charge significantly reduces the burden of proof upon which the federal government is required to meet in order to secure a conviction.

The indictment alleges that in 2005, when Brown relinquished his role as president of NRC, he established a non-profit group that he managed called Charity One, and began doing business as the American Indian Education Endowment Fund. He would then draw funds from NRC to his other organizations. However,

instead of funding scholarships for Native students as claimed, he kept the money along with other co-conspirators.

On NRC’s website it touts its effectiveness at recruiting individual donors for its charity effort. “NRC is blessed to have the support of half a million donors who care about American Indians and support our ongoing work. Some donors make many small donations repeatedly throughout the year. These add up to help create a significant impact on the reservations. Some donors give monthly, which helps us defray the cost of fundraising. Heritage Circle members bequeath legacy gifts to NRC to ensure that Native needs are met into the future. Other donors give to help cover the cost of transporting goods to the remote reservations we serve,” the site reads.

At his initial arraignment hearing he pleaded not guilty to all charges and was released under the conditions that he wears an electronic monitoring device and turn over his passport. His trial is set for Dec. 17.

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Cultural preservation leader walks on, leaves lasting legacy

Darrell Kipp’s overriding philosophy was simple and deep: “Whatever benefits the tribe must benefit the individual, and whatever benefits the individual must benefit the tribe, as well.”

SCOTT THOMPSON and BRIANA WIPP
Great Falls Tribune

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) – Darrell Robes Kipp, educator, author, historian, filmmaker and one of the co-founders of the Piegan Institute in Browning, died Thursday evening at Blackfeet Community Hospital, according to his son, Darren Kipp. He was 69.

Kipp had been sick for about five weeks with a recurrence of kidney cancer, said friend and co-worker Rosalyn LaPier, a faculty member of the environmental studies program at the University of Montana and board member of the Piegan Institute.

Darren Kipp remembered his father fondly Friday evening. “I am a sad son, but I am a thankful son,” he said. “I had a really good dad.”

Darren Kipp was extremely close with his father, sharing a love of filmmaking. They worked on several projects together.

“A lot of guys spend time going hunting and fishing with their fathers,” said Darren Kipp, a documentary filmmaker who lives on Lower St. Mary Lake. “I went to sweats, bundle openings and pipe ceremonies. That was my relationship with my father. We had a very good relationship.”

His father, who is universally described as incredibly wise and intelligent, shared some secrets with Darren.

“One thing he always told me was stay clear of careless people,” Darren Kipp said. “That’s why he was successful. He was not complex.

There were no problems in my dad’s life.” Kipp, whose Pikuni name was Apiniokio Peta, or Morning Eagle, co-founded the Piegan Institute in 1987, dedicated to archiving and preserving the Blackfoot language. The institute’s Cuts Wood School is the private elementary school that immerses young people in the Blackfoot language using a teaching method called total physical response.

The Harvard-trained Kipp became a leader in the preservation of the Blackfoot language and culture and was author of numerous books on topics such as Blackfeet mythology. In 2004, Kipp and composer Robert Kapilow collaborated on a choral and orchestral work called “Summer Sun, Winter Moon,” which was commissioned for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

And Darrell Kipp was not just successful with the Piegan Institute. “That was just one part of him,” said Darren, emphasizing that his father was instrumental in the spay-neuter clinic in Browning and many, many other things that piqued his interest.

Darrell Kipp’s overriding philosophy was simple and deep: “Whatever benefits the tribe must benefit the individual, and whatever benefits the individual must benefit the tribe, as well,” Darren remembered.

LaPier, who had known Darrell Kipp since the early 1990s and worked with him at the Piegan Institute since 1999, said Kipp’s legacy will be felt throughout the United States.

“It’s one of those things that his legacy will be felt nationwide more than local,” LaPier said. “He both encouraged a lot of people and inspired a lot of people to work on Native language revitalization. A lot of programs started all over in different Native communities.”

LaPier said in Montana examples

of revitalization efforts inspired by Kipp’s work include the White Clay Immersion School on the Fort Belknap Reservation and the Nkwusm Salish Language Institute in Arlee.

Another program that has been a big beneficiary of Kipp’s work is the Nigaane Ojibwe immersion program in Leech Lake, Minn.

Leslie Harper, the program’s director, said Kipp’s message was simple.

“What are you waiting for?” she remembered him asking. “Don’t ask permission to save your language. Just do it.”

She said it was such commonsense, but oftentimes people would plan and plan and plan something like language revitalization and nothing would ever happen.

“He spurred a lot of people into action all over the U.S.,” she said. “Get brave and jump in and do it.”

Kipp’s work at the immersion school in Browning was truly groundbreaking, said Harper, who benefited from Kipp’s counsel frequently as she worked on the program in Minnesota.

She paused, realizing with Kipp’s death that he would no longer be there as a mentor.

“I would always tell people to call Darrell Kipp in Montana,” she said. “And now we have to take what he told us and pass it on.”

The Grotto Foundation, which aims to increase understanding of American cultural heritage, the cultures of nations, and the individual’s responsibility to fellow human beings, has a booklet on its website that stemmed from a transcription of a seminar Kipp put on for a group interested in starting the Nigaane Ojibwe immersion program.

It’s titled “Encouragement, Guidance, Insights, and Lessons Learned for Native Language Activists Developing Their Own

Tribal Language Programs,” and it’s used across the United States, LaPier said.

“A lot of people (involved in Native language revitalization) use it,” LaPier said. “Even if they haven’t met him, they have read his booklet or heard of it. It’s seen as this Bible that people use.”

On a personal level, LaPier said she will greatly miss Kipp.

“He was always eternally optimistic, and he always saw the good in people,” she said. “That was a real part of him and wasn’t fake.”

In fact, he was always genuine, LaPier said.

“He was smart, funny, very engaging, gregarious,” she said. “What people loved about him is that he talked to people at their level. In the town of Browning talking to street people or at Harvard talking to academics, he was able to bridge all of those different worlds. He made people feel like he was hearing them and that they were special.”

Tom Cook, with the Montana Historical Society, remembered Kipp as extraordinary.

“Darrell was a great man,” Cook wrote in email tribute to his friend. “I talked to him many times over the years, especially during the Lewis and Clark commemoration, which he taught me was not a celebration. He was a great teacher and storyteller – both of serious stuff and stuff that made you laugh. We had many a good time. The things he did for the people and especially the young ones with his language and pride teachings is legacy enough for most. But he was far more than that. He taught us all what it means to be human and to learn, to confront and to forgive. One is tempted to say he lived in two worlds, but for me I like to think he lived in a world that was big enough for all of us. He will be honored in the next place. He already earned his honors here. He will be missed.”

PTSD

Continued from Page 1

have lost their connection to the warrior spirituality, but he is seeing a revitalization of that idea. The traditional healing methods are not only working for some Native American soldiers – Telonidis has seen the method work for other veterans suffering from PTSD.

Telonidis is studying two specific locations for his film: the George Wallen Veteran Affairs Center in Salt Lake and the Blackfeet reservation in Montana and Canada.

At the VA center, a Shoshone-Paiute medicine man is offering sweat lodges for anyone who is interested.

“Guilt and shame are the biggest things guys bring back with them,” Telonidis said. Often, veterans with PTSD have one particular image that is frightening and they relive it over and over. Sometimes it’s the death

of a colleague or friend or a memory of killing an enemy.

The medicine man instructs the veteran to bring the spirits of the people in those memories with them into the sweat lodge. Then, he tells the veterans to have the conversation the veteran has been wanting to have with them all these years. Veterans are encouraged to talk to those people and tell them how they feel, and to ask forgiveness if they feel they need to.

The sweat lodge isn’t a one-time fix. Veterans need to come in periodically and have the conversation often for the best results. Telonidis described it as a lifting of a burden.

“Just like any other therapy, you have to keep coming back,” Telonidis said.

Some find the experience uncomfortable and don’t return, but for those who do, it can be life-changing, Telonidis said. He is convinced it taps into something and heals something that other therapies don’t reach.

In the Blackfeet reservation, Telonidis is following Native American soldiers as they prepare to go to war and come back.

Historically, the Blackfeet have been a warrior culture, and the young people of the tribe are still attracted to the warrior idea. In the tribe, warriors were leaders and protectors as well as fighters. The younger Blackfeet are interested in becoming a warrior because their ancestors were warriors, Telonidis said.

Those veterans who shun the tribe’s traditions usually find the transition from soldier to citizen harder, Telonidis said. The documentary is following one young man who served several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He initially ignored the traditions of the tribe, and was having a hard time adjusting to being home.

A medicine man began working with him and counseling him, telling him about the native religion. Now, while he still has struggles, he believes he is in

a much better place.

Telonidis said Native Americans offered to show others their traditions for healing warriors. He thought the idea first began resurfacing in 2004. Groups of psychotherapists, scholars and chaplains are studying these traditions and trying to adapt them for all veterans.

“They said, ‘This is our tradition ... we would be interested in you offering this to at least as many non-Natives as Natives,’” Telonidis said.

As for Telonidis’ own interest in the project, he was disturbed by the effect of war on so many people. However, he said, most Americans are able to separate themselves from the issue. He wanted to explore the problems of war using the Western Folklife Center’s vision.

The Western Folklife Center is dedicated to documenting and celebrating traditional culture. While the center usually studies cowboy culture, it is also interested in Native American culture.

“I was wondering if there was a way to combine the

Western Folklife Center with this particular issue of veterans coming home,” Telonidis said.

He has researched the project for about a year and a half. Filming began in July 2013 and will be completed in late spring 2014. It’s possible the film will air on Veteran’s Day 2014. Since November is also Native American Heritage Month, Telonidis said it was the perfect combination to honor both topics in the documentary.

“Healing the Warrior’s Heart” is a Western Folklife Center production in partnership with KUED Channel 7 in Salt Lake as the PBS affiliate. Gary Robinson from Tribal Eye Productions is a partnering producer.

Telonidis is looking for funds to complete the project. Those who would like to donate can become a Western Folklife Center Stakeholder at <http://contribute.westernfolklife.org/> and select the “Media Programming” designation.



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Getting at risk diabetics to change their ways frustrating health professionals

■ **Lena Guerito, a Navajo Tribe nutritionist, says encouraging new mothers to breast feed is the first step for conditioning a newborn.**

“When you look into formula, there are a lot of processed ingredients in there,” she said.

JIM MIMIAGA
Cortez Journal

TOWAOC, Colo. (AP) – From Cortez to Shiprock, N.M., Durango to Monticello, Utah, Native Americans sit in hospitals and health centers receiving kidney dialysis at a higher rate than non-Indians.

That is the uncomfortable truth of ignoring the diabetes epidemic the Ute Mountain Tribe is battling every day, reports Rita King, manager of the tribe’s Diabetes Prevention Program. The Utes and Navajos recently hosted a two-day education conference on diabetes in Towaoc.

“It has been frustrating getting those at risk and those with the disease to change their

ways,” King says. “The disease is reversible, our people are aware of the problem, so we have done a good job there. But it is the action of individuals to take responsibility for their health, that is much tougher.”

To date, 247 Ute Mountain tribal members people have either type 1 or type 2 diabetes, representing 11 percent of the 2,100-member tribe. And what is alarming is that 10- and 11-year-olds are being diagnosed with prediabetic conditions, King said.

“I’d call it a crisis,” she said. “We don’t beat around the bush, telling the kids dialysis, chronic sickness, or an early death, is where you will end up if you ignore nutrition and exercise. But a lot of our people are still in denial.”

Charlene Begay, coordinator for Diabetes Awareness for the Navajo tribe estimates 20 percent, or 60,000 are afflicted, of the 300,000 population.

“Natives are predisposed to the disease because they do not have that history and tolerance to processed, sugary, and fatty foods like European stock has,” she explained. “Going back to our native diet is great, but it does not resonate with kids. Getting them active and eating well at an

early age is our goal.”

The Ute tribe pulls out all the stops with kids. Prevention education, scare tactics, nutrition, label-reading training, portion control, exercise, physiology, are all topics constantly drilled into the heads of the younger generation, says Radona Tom, events coordinator for the diabetic program.

“We do all we can. We show them the awful prop of what fat looks like in your body,” she says. “Then we say this is what will happen if you keep playing video games, have them put on progressively heavier fat jackets and then do calisthenics. The key is to keep up the message year to year, each generation. It takes time.”

But it pays off. The message got through to Tom. “I lost 100 pounds, and cured myself,” she said.

Just having fun with kids is an effective approach. Every Wednesday afternoon, child care providers host kick ball, basketball, and soon Lacrosse, an original Native American sport, at the tribal recreation center.

Lena Guerito, a Navajo Tribe nutritionist, says encouraging new mothers to breast feed is the first step for conditioning a newborn.

“When you look into formula, there are

a lot of processed ingredients in there,” she said.

Using blue corn or wheat flour in fry bread, a favorite Navajo food, helps, Guerito tells a group. And so does returning to indigenous diets like squash, juniper, wild banana plant, and kneel down bread.

“Getting back to the garden is another campaign, controlling our food supply so we don’t depend on packaged, fatty choices at restaurants and in stores,” Guerito said.

In the end, we can all learn from Beverly Lehi, a Towaoc resident who has become a popular inspiration as she takes weekly runs from town to Woodies Convenience store and back, an eight mile trek.

“Go Bev, Go,’ I hear that a lot,” she says. “I’m 55 and decided diabetes is not going to happen to me.”

At first it was hard, but Lehi took it slow. She advises Utes to not get discouraged. Begin by just walking every day, which for her led to a running pace.

“I just started feeling better and better, and now I can’t wait for my run,” she says. “You notice how beautiful it is outside, my mind is clearer, and I lost 20 pounds. The alternative is insulin shots, and I hate shots.”

NAME

Continued from Page 1

heated comments from both sides on social media, including assertions that the Code Talkers were being used as props in a public relations stunt meant to deflect criticism over the name.

Jacqueline Pata, head of the National Congress of American Indians, called the appearance “a political play rather than a heartfelt recognition of the Code Talkers.”

Pata, a member of the Tlingit Tribe of Alaska, said she reveres the Code Talkers for the work they have done but added that people often fail to recognize that the origins of the term “r*nsk*n” date to a period when Indians faced efforts to annihilate their culture.

“We were outlawed during that same period the mascot was created from practicing our own religion and our own cultures,” she said. “That term is associated with getting rid of the Indians.”

Snyder has called the team name and mascot a “badge of honor.” The name dates to the team’s first years in Boston in the 1930s and has survived numerous outside efforts to change it. The team has been in the Washington, D.C., area since 1937.

The team’s Senior Vice President Tony Wyllie said there was no truth to suggestions that the Code Talkers were used to bolster the team’s resistance to a new name.

“They’re American heroes, and they deserved recognition,” he said.

Also attending Monday’s game were Code Talkers President Peter MacDonald Sr., George Willie Sr. and George James Sr.

The Navajo Code Talkers used codes derived from their native language to shield military communications from interception by Japanese troops. Hawthorne said there are now about 30 surviving Code Talkers.

The trip to Washington was the second this month for Hawthorne, who last week joined Code Talkers from other tribes who received Congressional Gold Medals for the role they played in World War I and World War II. Members of the Navajo were recognized in 2000.

The Navajo are perhaps the best known of the Code Talkers, but the Defense Department says the program began in 1918 and at its peak included more than 400 Indians who used 33 dialects to make their codes indecipherable.

Non-profit offers free low vision workshops

Project NATIVE schedules meetings in Jay, Okmulgee and Sallisaw for 2014

SAMMYE RUSCO
Project NATIVE Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Project NATIVE provides free workshops that offer meaningful life skills and visual aids information and training to Native Americans with low vision. In 2014, the program will take the workshops to three communities in northeast Oklahoma – Jay, Okmulgee and Sallisaw. The workshops help participants remain productive and independent, which is a central goal of Project NATIVE (Native Americans Teaming in Visual Empowerment).

“I just can’t believe all the things available nowadays; I can see the faces on TV!” exclaimed Project NATIVE participant, Bernice. “Maybe I will start watching more TV now. I hope I can start sewing again too.” Project NATIVE gave Bernice TV viewing glasses as well as magnifiers and lights to help her read and sew.

Native Americans are

at great risk of losing their eyesight due mostly to the high rate of diabetes among the Native population. Diabetes is linked to diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma; both are low vision eye diseases.

What is low vision? Generally, low vision is described as an eye disease that cannot be corrected or cured with glasses, contacts or surgery. Some common low vision diseases include glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Eligible participants must have a low vision diagnosis, have visited an eye doctor in the last two years, are a member of a federally recognized tribe, and be over 18 years of age.

Please apply soon to ensure your place in one of the 2014 workshops which are scheduled as follows (subject to change):

- Jay, Oklahoma
January 17 (orientation), 18, 25 and February 1, 2014
- Okmulgee, Oklahoma
March 21 (orientation), 22, 29 and April 5, 2014
- Sallisaw, Oklahoma
June 13 (orientation), 14, 21 and 28, 2014

Project NATIVE is unique, the first program of its kind to focus on Native Americans with



PHOTO COURTESY PROJECT NATIVE
Participants Sharon Skeeter and Bernice Simpson try on several styles of glasses that help with contrast, glare and magnification during a Project NATIVE low vision workshop in Tulsa.

low vision, and is made available through the American Indian Resource Center in Tahlequah and funded through a grant from the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The free program offers a short series of hands-on workshops designed to help low vision individuals with beneficial information to live more independently. After attending the requisite workshops, Project NATIVE orders low vision equipment for participants. The vision aids are free and the amount allocated depends on participant needs and the program budget. Each driver attending the workshops will receive \$50 to assist with gasoline.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to help so many in the Native community,” said Lillian Young, Ed.D, director of the project. “Our participants were simply not aware that these visual aids were available. As much as they have enjoyed learning, they have also enjoyed the fellowship of the other participants. Many people with low vision slowly become isolated from the world. This program shows them that they are not alone and has given them something interesting to do in a safe environment. They love attending the workshops and learning new things.”

If you know of someone who is visually impaired and may be interested in Project NATIVE, please ask them to call (918) 456-5581 for information. The staff at Project NATIVE is happy to answer questions and help with the application.

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Rotten American Indian charities



DR. DEAN CHAVERS
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As the director of a national nonprofit organization serving Indian people, I know how hard it is to meet the expectations of the people who evaluate us. We are not perfect, but many of the “Indian” charities are simply rotten.

One of our large donors asked me 20 years ago to research the charities she was giving money to. There were over 100 of them, with some 25 being Indian charities. Out of the 25, about 20 were rotten. It was way beyond my expectations. She curtailed her giving to most of them.

Indian charities serve education, health, economic development, domestic abuse, and many other causes. Most of them are run by non-Indians, which is admirable. But the rotten ones are not admirable. They need to be held accountable, but seldom are.

My best friend told me about one of them 40 years

ago. His mother-in-law worked there, opening checks and preparing bank deposits most of the day. They had a well-oiled machine. But they abused their privileges; they had their own airplane to fly the money into the bank every day. They are still doing that.

Another non-Indian runs the largest pow wow in the world every spring in Albuquerque. When he asked the mayor, Martin Chavez, to give them \$30,000 for security, Marty asked if they had gone through the Indian Commission. They had not. I was chairing the commission at the time. So at the next meeting the man’s daughter showed up and read a slightly insulting letter to us, and would not answer any questions.

We turned them down for their request for security money. They would not answer any questions about who was on their board, what their financial situation was, how much money they made, and what happened to the money. We since learned that they make over \$500,000 a year and no one except a handful of people knows what happens to the money.

The only real protest they have ever had is from the late Russell Means and a handful of his friends. They showed up and held signs against the pow wow. But apparently

they had little if any impact. People had driven from Montana and South Dakota to see that pow wow, and they were not about to let Russell stop them.

The latest bad news is that the former director of the National Relief Charities (NRC), Brian Brown, has been indicted for stealing \$4 million from that organization. He was charged with wire fraud and money laundering. Allegedly for years he had a new Cadillac leased and paid for by the organization.

(I also hate to admit this, but one of our supposedly honest Indian nonprofits also paid for a leased Cadillac for its former executive director. To their credit, when the board found out, they let him go.)

Brown was on his way back from a trip to Thailand and Japan when he was arrested at Portland, Oregon International Airport on October 20. He had spent \$275,000 of the \$4 million to buy a condo in Thailand, where he lived from 2006 to 2013. FBI agents and federal prosecutors are trying to determine if he used his overseas connections to hide some of his assets. They could use this to bring additional charges against him.

He was supposed to be using the \$4 million in money for scholarships, but U. S. Attorney Amanda Marshall alleged that he had not paid any of it out for

that purpose. He kept it all. She alleges that he provided false financial statements to the NRC to delude them into thinking he was using the money properly.

“Anyone who defrauds a charity for their own personal gain should expect to be found, caught, and prosecuted,” she said.

NRC raised \$45 million last year, but their overhead is large. They spent almost \$18 million on fundraising expenses—a very large amount. Very little of the money they raise gets to their target audience, which is supposed to be Indians living on reservations. One of the stories I heard about them 20 years ago is that they spent a few hundred dollars buying vegetable seeds and took them to reservations in South Dakota.

They have also moved around frequently. They started in Pennsylvania, moved to Rapid City, then to Arizona, then to Oregon, then back to Rapid. They still have an office in Beaverton, Oregon, even though their scholarship office is in Rapid City.

Most of the charities play on the “poor Indian” a routine. It may be children, or the elderly, or poor people without jobs. One of my friends has called me twice in the past few weeks asking if an appeal he has gotten on the phone is legitimate. I asked him for the name of the charity, which he had

forgotten. But they have gall. They asked him for \$4,000.

The Attorney General of Pennsylvania, Mike Fisher, charged NRC in 1993 with using false claims in its mail appeals. They claimed that Indians were starving to death on South Dakota reservations, and other outlandish claims. They agreed to pay \$395,000 in restitution to the state, which then paid the money to three South Dakota reservations—Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Cheyenne River. The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), one of five accrediting agencies for nonprofits, gave NRC a grade of F.

According to an article in the Phoenix New Times on December 26, 1996, reporter Paul Rubin detailed how Brown had moved the NRC from Rapid City to Phoenix, changed its name, hired a new manager, and stepped up its fleecing activities. The title of the article was “Finances with Wolves.” It partly forced Brown to move the so-called charity to Beaverton, Oregon, his hometown.

“For a lot of Indian families on the reservation,” read a note from Brown, “the basic nutritious food we supply is often the first well-balanced meal they’ve had in weeks or months.” Brown never had contact with the tribal officials of the tribes he was allegedly serving, who were outraged when they found

out what he was doing.

In 1995 NRC paid its attorneys \$175,000—more than it paid to its Indian clients. They have also used several names, including American Indian Relief Council, the Famine Relief Fund, and the Council of Indian Nations. Tom Hennessey, the general manager when NRC was located in Phoenix, is convinced that Brian Brown is nothing but a scam artist.

Many of them are “boiler room” operations, which National Relief Charities has been operating for almost 30 years. They have trained solicitors in a large room calling people to ask for money.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news. And I hate it that so few of the donors to these charities will see this column. If they do, I hope they will check out the rotten Indian charities before they send their hard-earned money to a bad charity.

Dr. Dean Chavers runs Catching the Dream, a Native scholarship program in Albuquerque. His next book will be “The American Indian Dropout,” to be published by Peter Lang in the Spring. Contact him at CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com.

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Must possess computer skills with knowledge of Excel or similar spreadsheet program. Willingness to learn the CAMS database is essential. Must have good interpersonal skills, written and oral skills. Must be a self-starter and be able to work with little supervision.

Desirable Education and Experience: Bachelors degree in Accounting is desired. At least two years of experience in payroll processing is a must.

Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: humanresources@bacone.edu or Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee, OK 74403. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

Division of Arts & Science
**ADJUNCT
INSTRUCTOR**

Bacone College seeks applications for the position of adjunct instructor in the Division of Arts and Science. Instructors are needed for the spring semester to teach courses in Christian Ministry in the following areas: New Testament, The Gospels, Church Administration, and others. These course will be taught on the main campus during the day. Requirements include an advanced degree and college teaching experience in the arts or the humanities. Salary competitive.

Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee, OK 74403. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

**Mathematics and Algebra
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR**

Bacone College is seeking daytime, on campus adjunct instructors for the Division of Academic Support for the Spring 2014 semester.

Candidates should be prepared to teach developmental courses in mathematics and algebra and be able to accommodate a schedule with a fluctuating workload. Previous work involving college age youth is a plus, especially in developmental education.

Applicants must have an appropriate degree. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's degree is preferred. Salary is competitive.

Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until positions are filled. Candidates should submit a letter of interest, vita, and three professional references to: Human Resources, Bacone College, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee, OK 74403. Bacone College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

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Muskogee area business looking for an **ACCOUNTANT**. The selected candidate will be responsible for assisting with accounting records and financial transactions; to include assisting in preparing monthly financial statements and analysis in a timely manner and back-up payroll as needed.

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Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 5 years experience in accounting desired, CPA preferred

Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: job@nativetimes.com

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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY THURSDAY
The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City
YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For

more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

THROUGH DECEMBER 24
Native American Christmas Market will be held at the Tribal Art Center and Bad Eagle Gallery, 423 West C Avenue downtown Cache. The event is open to the public and no admission. The market will be open 6 days a week Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. For information call Eleanor McDaniel, Coordinator at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864.

DECEMBER 4
6 to 8 p.m. – The Cherokee Arts Center in Tahlequah will host a loom weaving class every Wednesday, taught by National Treasure Dorothy Ice. The six-week course costs \$40 per class, with \$80 due at registration. Classes are also every Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. To register contact Callie Chunestudy at 918-453-5728 or callie-chunestudy@cherokee.org.

DECEMBER 6
7th Annual Native American Benefit Concert at Norman’s Historic Santa Fe Depot, 200 S Jones Avenue, Norman, 7 to 9 p.m. Admission – a new unwrapped toy or article of clothing for a child ages birth to 17 years. All proceeds will benefit indigent Native children across Oklahoma. Hosted by Chance Rush, Performances by: Native Praise; Hoop Dancer, Jay Mule; Music by Terry Tsotigh, Tonemah, Live painting by NiCole Hatfield and others to be announced. Pictures with Santa and much more. Also appearances by “The Cherokee Word for Water” cast members Kaylea Dreadfulwater and Darryl Tonemah. “Let’s Take Care of Each Other.” For more info, contact Loren Tonemah 405.226.0159 or tonemahmusic@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 7
Winter Dance & Big Ticket Raffle at Sac and Fox Nation Gymnasium, south of Stroud on HWY 99. Raffles, cake walk and food. 70” Visio flat screen TV up for raffle! More info call Mary Brown, 918-968-2583.

TCIC Annual Christmas Bazaar, 8am-3pm. For more information contact TCIC (918) 298-2464 or Email: tulsacreekcommunity@yahoo.com or visit 8611 South Union Ave, Tulsa, OK

DECEMBER 9
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Cherokee Nation Tribal Registration help with citizenship applications in South Coffeyville, 215 Oklahoma St. 918-563-9329.

DECEMBER 12
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – The Cherokee Nation is opening its doors to visitors with a Christmas Open House. Several Cherokee Nation departments will have festive booths set up to provide visitors with information on services. Santa Claus and other Christmas characters will be on hand to take photos. For more information, call Diane Kelley at 918-453-5000, ext. 5628.

6:30 p.m. – Sequoyah High School’s theatre department presents Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” dinner theatre in the school cafeteria, 17091 S. Muskogee Ave in Tahlequah. Turkey and dressing will be served. Admission is \$5 and \$2 for children under 12. Another show will be Dec. 13 at the same time. To make reservations, contact Amanda Ray at 918-575-3376 or amanda-bruce@cherokee.org.

DECEMBER 13
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program’s Annual Holiday Toy Drive ends. Please drop off donations in Okmulgee, Henryetta, Eufaula or

Muskogee. For locations, call Debbie Severson, 918-319-8102. Please help make Christmas a joyous one for a child in need of some cheer. Mvto!

DECEMBER 16
6 p.m. – The Cherokee Nation Tribal Council meeting will be held in the Tribal Council chambers at the W.W. Keeler Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah.
DECEMBER 19
The Otoe-Missouria Tribe hosts an Open House at the Cultural Building. Tribal Programs will have information booths set up to help tribal members apply for the many services available. Doors open at 9 am. Lunch served at noon. Call 580-723-4466 ext 217 for more information.

DECEMBER 20
9 a.m. – Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School to put on “Down Home Traditional Christmas” program at Sequoyah High School’s old gym in Tahlequah, 17091 S. Muskogee Ave. Program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 918-207-4900.

DECEMBER 20
Annual Bykes 4 Tykes Community Children’s Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. at the Pawnee Nation Roundhouse on the Pawnee Nation Reserve in Pawnee. There will be a drawing for bicycles for children of the community. Also, all children receive candy sacks and Santa hats. Santa and Pawnee Bill and his horse will be at the party. Bring a camera to have your pictures taken with both and join in the carols. For more information, call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041.

*Want to make a donation to Bykes 4 Tykes? Call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041 or reach him by mail at the address:

812 Granite St., Pawnee, OK, 74058. Bykes 4 Tykes will accept donations up to the day of the Dec. 22 Christmas party for the purchase of additional children’s bicycles.

DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 3
Native American Times Winter Break - Publishing to resume week of January 6th.

DECEMBER 31
Annual New Years Eve Sobriety Powwow sponsored by Friends of Sobriety in memory of Niles Bosin. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm at Cox Convention Center, 100 Civic Center, Tulsa, Okla. Info call Lorraine, 918-639-7999 or email Lorraine at choctaw1865@yahoo.com.

Yuchi/Euchee Heritage Festival’s New Year’s Eve Stomp Dance at Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center, 13839 S. Casper St., Glenpool (HWY 75 & N. 141st ST.) Vendors at 1pm - dancing starts at 7pm. Raffles, cake plates, 50/50s and more. Info call Wade Bucktrot 918-378-9385.

JUNE 6-8, 2014
Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion

The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008, telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net or Lucian (Jake) Larney, 524 S. 2nd St., Okemah, OK 74859, telephone No. (405) 401-8881, e-mail jake74868@hotmail.com.

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December 19

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Caterer infuses Native dishes with love & spirit

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

When all the right ingredients come together, good things happen. Caterer Tricia Fields-Alexander only uses the best whole foods, fresh seasonings and her memories to make her business succeed.

The aptly named Spirit Soup, for example, is carefully prepared with quality ground bison or venison, fresh vegetables and deliberate thought of how the elders prepared food -what they used and the people they served at the table. Cooking is about respect and responsibility.

“Whenever I cook, I just think of all of that stuff. I think about the way they were raised. I think about the food they got and didn’t get at boarding schools. I think about where they camped,” she says. “Some people, whenever I tell that, ... get all sarcastic, you know, and say something smart or rude, like ‘You think about all that when you’re just making soup? I don’t. I’m just watching TV.’”

Perhaps that difference is the reason Fields-Alexander, Pawnee and Muscogee (Creek), has made a success of her home-based business Autumn Star Catering, a full-service operation preparing Native American dishes. With the help of relatives and friends, Fields-Alexander has catered at Native art festivals, film festivals, and fundraisers. She was even featured during the Living Earth Festival at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., where she cooked some of her signature dishes - venison Spirit Soup, grape dumplings, corn soup with beef and buffalo chili. She created another specialty, grape fry bread, at the NMAI when she had a sudden idea to combine leftover fry bread dough and her grape dumpling mixture together. The blend seemed to take everyone by pleasant surprise.

Food should bring comfort to the body and spirit, she said, which is why she, like her grandmothers and great aunts, always begin their cooking with a prayer.

A person could be experiencing hardships with family or work. It

is Fields-Alexander’s hope that her soups and meat pies will nourish and heal the soul. Call it the ultimate comfort food.

“That food will bless them and bless their house or their kids ... that’s what I try to think of,” she says.

It also blesses Fields-Alexander, who began catering by cooking for money at camps and stomp dances more than ten years ago to supplement her income. However, her history in food goes back even further. She began seriously cooking at 14. Raised in a traditional household, Fields-Alexander (who is also Choctaw, Chickasaw and

important thing and I felt like if I was doing that I would be like the big wig, in charge, and I’m bossy anyway,” she says with a grin.

In 2002, she stationed herself at powwows and other public events to sell her food, particularly her meat pies, which are among her most requested specialties. They are also her most guarded recipe. When it comes to Pawnee meat pies, every cook has his or her own secret combination of ingredients. If you ever ask a cook for the blueprint, don’t be surprised if you’re greeted with an emphatic “No.” Fields-Alexander was on her own when it came to learning to

perfectly seasoned beef filling. She’s not sharing her recipe either and says she has even lost a few friends because of that.

“I worked hard for it. It’s not that I’m trying to be mean, but to me it’s more special. I want my kids to be able to tell. And they can tell a difference now - if it’s my meat pies or somebody else,” she says.

Today, Fields-Alexander is known for making food that is not only delicious but healthier, too. She changed the way she cooked for the sake of her health and her family’s health. Diabetes also forced her to consider why she cooks.

“I’m diabetic and I almost

she says. “... It was just stubbornness and bad habits, and I realized later, even depression, probably.”

In the vein of what has come to be known as traditional Native American foods, she strives to locally source many ingredients for freshness and quality, uses foods indigenous to the land and makes modifications of old recipes. She also controls the portion sizes of her meals: Fry bread is smaller and not so dense, servings of soups and dishes are no longer massive and she avoids using lard, shortening and salt.

“I show my love for other people through food. If it’s somebody’s



PHOTO BY KAREN SHADE | NATIVETIMES

Tricia Fields-Alexander stirs up a pot of her special ‘Spirit Soup’ in her home kitchen.

Euchee) was taught she needed to learn to cook and care for a home and family. She happily learned to take care of others as well as herself and grew to love cooking. She quickly saw the honor in it and moved to take up a lead role among her family at gatherings and feasts.

“My grandma was getting older and my aunts couldn’t always do it ... and I always felt like that was an

meat pies.

“I just experimented and tried through trial and error. My dad and everybody had to eat lots of funky meat pies,” she says. “You know, they were good, but they weren’t the greatest. They might have been greasy or something, but nobody ever complained.”

Over time, she perfected her own pastry crust folded around a

died last year,” she says. She was diagnosed with Type II diabetes in 2011, but because she didn’t feel bad or different, she neglected to take medication and make changes to her diet and lifestyle. That ended when her blood sugar shot up so high she was placed in the hospital for most of a week.

“It caught up to me, and I could literally feel myself withering away,”

birthday I’m going to go all out,” she says.

For Fields-Alexander, there’s no better compliment than when someone empties a bowl of stew or cleans a plate of her special posole. Just knowing her food nourishes her family, her guests and her customers inside and out is enough. And that’s a blessing in itself.

Tulsa artist creates another custom Pendleton

DANA ATTOCKNIE
Native Times

Tulsa, Okla. – Warriors from the past are silhouettes to present day servicemen in an image that will soon be transferred from

spell of creating a lot of pictures pertaining to military service. He felt one image carried the universal impact he wanted to share as an honor blanket.

“When I drew it I was thinking, you know, we’re one of the only people that

service somewhere. The big impact of the code talkers and all those things; I was just thinking, how can I honor them.”

He named the drawing and soon-to-be blanket “Standing Strong.”

“There are so many people, not just in the service, but in all the fights that we as Native people have gone through; there’s a lot of people that have been killed for our beliefs and our traditions and ... in the service, these men and women have been standing strong for us,” Chamberlain said. “That’s what it’s about. All of them stood strong for us. That’s what the whole blanket is about.”

The “Standing Strong” blanket will be a custom, collectable Pendleton blanket that can only be attained through Chamberlain or at the Talking Leaves bookstore in Cherokee, N.C. The blankets will be a limited edition and only 250 will be produced. Each blanket will be signed, numbered and come with the following description:

“This image honors all those who have stood strong for us Native Americans, in this country. Native image in background depicts the warrior societies we come from. The eagle held in high regards for our people in the United States. Tipis represent home. The four service men standing strong represent the four sacred directions.”

Chamberlain’s first Pendleton blanket debuted in 2011 and was titled “All Night Meeting,” which paid tribute to the Native American Church. The inspiration for that blanket came from a painting he made for an Indian art calendar in 2005.

“We are pleased to be working with Joseph again on another Pendleton design,” Bob Christnacht, Director Wholesale Sales – Worldwide at Pendleton, said. “His commissioned blanket (Standing Strong) speaks to the honor and self sacrifice of all those who have and do defend and support our country by serving in the Armed Forces.”

Chamberlain, who is originally from Wagner, S.D., said it was humbling and an honor to have Pendleton recognize his earlier painting and turn it into the “All Night Meeting” blanket. He’s also honored to have Pendleton work with him on his new “Standing Strong” blanket and said the experience for the “Standing Strong” blanket has been different from the previous blanket - mainly because he’s worked on everything from the ground up. He wasn’t sure his drawing could be weaved - but everything fell into place and although the blanket doesn’t mirror each nuance of his drawing, it still conveys his appreciation and the high regard he has for servicemen and women.

“The main reason for it all is my way to honor and thank them. I’ll never be able to individually thank them all. This is my way through art,” Chamberlain said about service members. “I couldn’t even do what I do, if they didn’t do what they did. I couldn’t sit here and paint and raise my grandson.”

The “Standing Strong” blankets will be released around the end of January or the first part of February 2014. One blanket has been produced thus far, and Chamberlain showcased it in October during a conference for the National Congress of American Indians and a Native American Film Festival, both in Tulsa, where he resides.

“A lot of people already had someone in mind they’d want to get it (blanket) for,” Chamberlain said.

Chamberlain is taking pre-orders for the \$350 blanket and can be reached at (918) 277-1129. Information on him and his work can be found on Facebook, MySpace and www.yanktonart.com.



PHOTO BY TITUS FRENCHMAN

Artist Joseph Chamberlain stands with his latest design, ‘Standing Strong.’

paper to Pendleton.

Earlier this year, Joseph Chamberlain, Yankton Sioux and Dakota, went through a

served in the service before we were ever citizens,” Chamberlain said. “I bet in every war there has been Native Americans in the

Inside this issue:

- Elders suing Cherokee bear zoo
- Judge approves auction of sacred masks
- Tribe hopes to build bottled water plant



NATIVE TIMES

DOI Secretary addresses Indian Country issues while in Okla.



Sally Jewell

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

SHAWNEE, Okla. – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell made her first official visit to the state Nov. 25 to sign an agreement with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that gives the tribe complete leasing authority over its trust property.

Prior to the ceremony, Secretary Jewell toured the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s cultural heritage center with Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn and Jacque Secondine Hensley, the state of Oklahoma’s tribal liaison and a representative from the Native Times. While touring the

facility, she weighed in on some of the issues in Indian Country, including tribes’ efforts to assert self-determination and diversify economically.

“It’s (the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s new leasing regulations) a great illustration of an Indian nation of doing a really good job of governance, economic development

and thinking long-term about how do we support tribal members, build economic activity and take advantage of some of the efforts made by people like Congressman Cole, President Obama and Kevin Washburn and his predecessors to streamline regulations and make it easier for tribes to govern

See **JEWELL** on Page 3

High Court seems wary in casino case

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Supreme Court seemed wary of making any changes to tribal sovereignty laws as it considered whether Michigan can permanently block an American Indian casino.

Justices heard arguments Monday from state officials who want to shutter the Bay Mills Indian Community’s casino about 90 miles south of its Upper Peninsula reservation. Michigan argues that the tribe opened the casino in 2010

without permission from the U.S. government and in violation of a state compact.

The lower courts say they don’t have jurisdiction over parts of this argument, and that the tribe also has sovereign immunity.

Michigan Solicitor General John Bursch says that if Michigan could sue a foreign country for opening an illegal business on state land, they should be able to sue to stop the casino.

Law official says state should back tribal rights

■ Alaska Attorney General Michael Geraghty says that increasing tribal court and police power would subject non-Natives to a justice system they couldn’t change democratically.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – The chairman of the U.S. Indian Law & Order Commission is sharply criticizing the state’s treatment of Native Alaskans, saying the colonial model is “alive and well in Alaska,” and calling the public safety in rural Alaska a national disgrace.

Troy Eid was in Anchorage recently to present a recent report that addresses the successes and failures of reservation justice programs, and makes recommendations on new laws and policies.

The Nov. 12 report also chastised the state for opposing Alaska Natives who want their own village courts and police. The report said Alaska was falling behind the rest

of the nation in providing a secure environment in rural villages.

“What’s so shocking about Alaska is that you have the most rural state in the country, and you have the most centralized law enforcement in terms of how the state provides – and fails to provide – services,” Eid said. “We cling to this model because we know it and because there’s a lot of perverse pleasure taken in controlling the lives of other people. ... The colonial model, which is alive and well in Alaska, does not work.”

Eid told an Anchorage crowd Wednesday that public safety and security are so bad in rural Alaska that it had become a national disgrace, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

“I don’t claim to be an Alaskan,” said Eid, a former U.S. Attorney for Colorado, “but I know injustice when I see it.”

Eid made his comments at the 23rd annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Providers Conference.

He said he received a letter from

See **RIGHTS** on Page 4

NON-TAXED SMOKES



DAVID DUPREY | ASSOCIATED PRESS | FILE PHOTO

In this Sept. 1, 2010 photo, Quinna Hamby holds a sign during a rally protesting taxes on the Tuscarora Indian Nation reservation in New York.

US law didn’t halt cigarette flow from New York tribes

DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) – When Congress passed a law in 2009 effectively banning mail-order deliveries of cigarettes, it was expected to snuff out entrepreneurs on New York’s Indian reservations who were selling millions of cartons, tax-

free, to consumers in high-tax states.

But the law, called the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act, didn’t stop everybody.

As recently as last spring, one group of about 20 website operators on Seneca Nation territory was still delivering 1.7 tons of untaxed cigarettes a week to destinations around the U.S.,

according to shipping records obtained by lawyers for New York City as part of a civil racketeering lawsuit.

The city’s efforts are part of a wider legal battle involving the ability of states to tax cigarettes sold on Indian reservations, where tribal leaders have long

See **SMOKES** on Page 4

Rule weakens current protections, sanctions eagle deaths

ROBERT JOHNS
American Bird Conservancy Media Release

WASHINGTON – American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is reviewing the revised eagle rule announced on Dec. 6 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), asserting that the plan may mark a setback in protecting Bald and Golden eagles, two species that have inspired Americans for centuries.

“I can’t imagine many things more important than protecting a bird so widely regarded as one of this country’s most iconic species,” said Dr. George Fenwick,

President of the American Bird Conservancy.

In its previous comments on this rule, ABC asked for more transparency and adaptive management through improved siting, mitigation, and compensation to minimize the impact of wind energy development on eagles. The revised rule attempts to accomplish these goals through five-year reviews of the extended 30-year permits, mitigation, and compensation when sites surpass their agreed upon eagle take quotas, adaptive management, and public access to data on eagle fatalities.

“Remarkably, this approach

relies exclusively on the for-profit wind industry to self-report bird fatalities, even when such information may prove detrimental to the industry’s bottom line. While some companies may play by the rules, others may not, making this system highly vulnerable to deception. I don’t see how such a system will work to protect eagles,” said Fenwick.

In addition, Dr. Michael Hutchins, National Coordinator for American Bird Conservancy’s Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign said, “These rules are still voluntary, rather than mandatory, which means that only wind energy

companies who choose to work collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be subject to these requirements. All others will be allowed to continue to build wind facilities until they actually kill an eagle, and we’ll have to rely on the companies themselves to be forthcoming—in our opinion, a highly unlikely scenario in every case.”

Eric Glitzenstein, with the public-interest law firm Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, which has worked with ABC on efforts to ensure that wind power projects are developed in a bird-friendly fashion, said that the Interior

Department “cut legal corners and disregarded public comments in crafting this rule, which is little more than a regulatory subsidy to the wind power industry. We will be reviewing all available legal options to ensure that eagles do not suffer needless death and maiming from this ill-advised and scientifically bankrupt weakening of eagle safeguards.”

A 2004 study prepared for the California Energy Commission estimates that about 95 eagles were being killed annually in one area alone—the wind facilities at

See **DEATHS** on Page 2

Tribal elders suing Cherokee bear zoo

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) – Members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are suing a North Carolina roadside zoo that keeps bears in concrete pits on reservation land.

An attorney for two tribal elders filed the lawsuit Tuesday, 60 days after they filed a notice of intent to sue the operators of the Cherokee Bear Park for violating the federal Endangered Species Act. The act allows citizens to file lawsuits for violations, but it requires them to give 60-days’ notice to the violators and federal regulators

“It’s shameful that the Cherokee Bear Zoo is still displaying intelligent, sensitive bears in tiny concrete pits,” said Amy Walker, who filed the lawsuit with fellow tribal elder Peggy Hill. “It’s obvious to anyone who sees them that these bears are suffering, and they will continue to suffer every day until they are sent to a sanctuary where they’ll finally receive the care they need.”

Telephone messages left for the park owners were not immediately returned Tuesday.

The lawsuit is the latest development in the long, public campaign to close three privately owned bear zoos on the Cherokee Indian Reservation: Cherokee Bear Zoo, Chief Saunooke Bear Park and Santa’s Land.

Earlier this year, the Chief Saunooke Bear Park’s 11 bears, including three grizzlies, were taken to a 50-acre animal sanctuary in Texas. The move came after the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which enforces the federal Animal Welfare Act, suspended the park’s exhibitor’s license and fined the owner \$20,000 over inhumane conditions.

Inspectors found that the zoo was failing to provide the bears with appropriate food, proper veterinary care and a safe enclosure.

In Tuesday’s lawsuit, the attorney for the elders said the owners of the Cherokee Bear Zoo kept the bears in inhumane living conditions -

“barren and archaic concrete pits.”

The lawsuit said the bears are forced to beg for food from tourists and to languish in stark dank enclosures. The elders want the bears relocated to a sanctuary where they can live in large naturalistic habitat.

“Grizzly bears require large, environmentally complex, natural spaces that allow them to express a wide range of normal movement and behaviors,” the lawsuit said.

It said that because of the inadequate environment, the bears exhibit signs of severe psychological distress, including incessant pacing and circling.

Over the years, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has filed complaints with federal regulators and Cherokee leaders about the bears’ living conditions. Last year, the animal-rights group posted billboards in the area, calling the bear zoos “prisons” and noted that a 9-year-old girl was bitten while feeding a baby bear.



COURTESY COALITION FOR CHEROKEE BEARS

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has allowed caged animals as a tourism draw since the 1950s.

Walker, Hill and other tribal elders became involved after watching a video that showed bears rocking back and forth and circling in the tiny pits.

They said bears hold a spiritual place in Cherokee history, and in February, pressed the tribal council to force the zoos to free the bears.

But the council declined to take action. Chief Michell Hicks later issued a statement saying he wanted to give private zoo owners the opportunity to create a wildlife preserve on the reservation.

The Eastern Band has allowed caged animals as a tourism draw since the 1950s.

For years, the community in the Blue Ridge Mountains has depended on its natural landscape and wildlife – with hiking trails, fishing streams and whitewater rapids – to attract tourists. But now, many people come to the area for the casino, which opened on the reservation in 1997.

Ranchers oppose tribe’s plan for bison reserve

■ The Tribal Council approved the plan for the 1,000-animal Stronghold Buffalo Grazing Unit in June. Ranchers were recently notified their leases expire in October 2015.

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) – Some cattle ranchers on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota are fighting plans for a large bison reserve being pursued by the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

The tribe and National Park

Service are working on making the South Unit of Badlands National Park into the nation’s first tribal national park. The plan includes the return of bison to the park and the end of cattle grazing on leased land and some private land, which could be condemned, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The Tribal Council approved the plan for the 1,000-animal Stronghold Buffalo Grazing Unit in June. Ranchers who rely on the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oglala Sioux Tribe grazing permits were recently notified that their leases will expire in October 2015.

“It is tribal land they are on. The

tribe does have that option to pull that lease,” tribal spokeswoman Toni Red Cloud told The Associated Press.

Tribal officials had been scheduled to meet with ranchers on Friday afternoon to discuss the matter and try to reach some type of agreement, but the meeting was postponed because of the bitterly cold temperatures, Red Cloud said.

Sandra Buffington, who is in her 60s, told the Journal that without her 11,000 acres of leased land she will have to sell her cattle. She was offered a chance to relocate to the southwest corner of the reservation along the Nebraska border, but at

her age starting over is a daunting prospect, she said.

Although there is no current legislation to create and fund a tribal national park, the National Park Service has completed a general management plan and environmental impact statement on the South Unit that includes four management alternatives.

“The National Park Service and the tribe are working to resolve issues that will result in legislation that could be introduced (in Congress),” Perry Plumart, spokesman for Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., told the Journal.

DEATHS

Continued from Page 1

Altamont Pass in California. That estimate suggests that over the 30-year operation of those facilities, perhaps as many as 3,000 Golden Eagles may have been killed, with no prosecution by federal officials.

“Eagles are being asked to survive a brutal ‘one-two’ punch. On top of the impacts from the duration of take permits being extended six-fold, the birds will soon face an additional serious threat—a 12-fold increase in wind energy, if federal 2030 targets are achieved. So it is entirely conceivable, and probably even quite likely, that mortality impacts to eagles will get far worse,” Fenwick said.

The 30-year permit action was originally proposed in April 2012 and provided for a 90-day comment period. ABC and the Conservation Law Center led a response effort and sent joint comments opposing the proposal to FWS in July 2012. The National Park Service opposed the proposed action, along with nearly 120 conservation, wildlife, and animal protection groups including the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, National Resources Defense Council, and The Nature Conservancy. Native American groups such as the Hopi Tribe, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community have also expressed opposition to the change. In addition, thousands of concerned citizens responded to ABC action alerts on the proposal, writing to the Department of Interior asking that 30-year eagle take permits not be allowed.

– American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. ABC acts by safeguarding the rarest species, conserving and restoring habitats, and reducing threats, while building capacity in the bird conservation movement.



MICHEL EULER | ASSOCIATED PRESS | FILE PHOTO

A French supporter of the Indian cause, who refused to give his name, left, holds a flag of the American Indian Movement and an American exchange student, member of the Arizona’s Hopi tribe, Bo Lomahquahu, right, stand outside of the Drouot’s auction house to protest the auction of Native American Hopi tribe masks in Paris, Friday, April 12, 2013. A contested auction of dozens of Native American tribal masks went ahead that afternoon following a Paris court ruling, in spite of appeals for a delay by the Hopi tribe, its supporters including actor Robert Redford, and the U.S. government.

Judge approves auction of sacred Hopi masks

THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) – A judge has ruled that the controversial sale of 32 Native American Hopi masks can go ahead this week.

The Hopi tribe had taken a Paris auction house to court on Dec. 3 to try to block the sale, arguing that they are “bitterly opposed” to the

use as commercial art of sacred masks that represent their ancestor’s spirits.

Corinne Matouk, a lawyer who represented the Drouot auction house said the law was on their side.

“In French law there is nothing stopping the sale of Hopi artifacts.”

Pierre Servan-Schreiber, the Hopi’s French lawyer, said it is “very disappointing” and said he

would explore options including seeking help from U.N. cultural organization UNESCO.

The “Katsinam” masks are being put on sale by a private collector on Dec. 9 and 11, alongside an altar from the Zuni tribe that used to belong to late Hollywood star Vincent Price, and other Native American frescoes and dolls.

The tribe has said it believes the masks, which date back to the late

19th and early 20th century, were taken from a northern Arizona reservation in the early 20th century.

In April, a Paris court ruled that such sales are legal, and Drouot sold off around 70 Hopi masks for some 880,000 euros (\$1.2 million) despite vocal protests and criticism from actor Robert Redford and the U.S. government.

Tribe hopes to build bottled water plant

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

INDIAN TOWNSHIP, Maine (AP) – Tucked in the nation's northeastern corner, the Passamaquoddy tribe's ancestral land remains as it was centuries ago: Rugged and teeming with natural beauty and wildlife. Snow-covered in winter, springtime warmth reveals a rolling landscape, lakes and ponds – and dozens of bubbling springs.

But there is an ugly reality inside this idyllic community: Joblessness is rampant, making it hard for residents to feed their families. The tribe also needs more money to bolster public safety and other tribal services.

The leadership has been working on a bold plan to address these issues: Capitalize on the land's pristine spring water by building a 123,000-square-foot bottling plant and selling the water to customers outside of the tribal land.

The tribe is working with an investor and hopes to complete a deal early next year. Planning has been underway for several years, and there appears to be broad support among the 1,300 tribal members in Indian Township.

"People are struggling, especially with the cold weather coming and the high cost of fuel. Some people are having a really hard time," said Karen Sabattis, a mother of five and grandmother of nine who's laid off from a tribal plant that makes military clothing. "We need more economic development."

The Creative Apparel plant where Sabattis and several hundred other tribal members once worked is

idle now, and there are few other employment options in the state's poorest county. The latest figures from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs put unemployment on the reservation at an astonishing 60 percent, causing an exodus of tribal members.

The tribal leadership believes the water bottling plant could provide for the community.

"If we had jobs that paid a livable wage, more of our people would come back,"

come from spinoff businesses like a trucking company for hauling water, he said.

Tribal members have been careful not to move too fast; they want to minimize any damage to the land's resources and maintain its natural beauty. The industrial plant would be tucked away, and trucks would use U.S. 1, which abuts the proposed plant site.

"It's not just about this," said tribal member Wes Nicholas, rubbing his fingers together to indicate money.

The plant initially would be set up to produce 20 million cases of water a year, although there's enough water for more than 200 million cases of water, Turner said.

"Everything sounds positive," Turner said from his office in New Mexico. "We should be able to inject a lot of cash into the economy and provide jobs for the Passamaquoddies."

The tribe, which aims to own 61 percent of the company, intends to take

label, Passamaquoddy Blue, but it sees bigger markets through sales of store-labeled water and sales to the U.S. government, said tribal consultant Mike Dugay.

Nationwide, bottled water sales have grown to \$11.8 billion despite coming under attack from environmentalists who point out that delivery trucks pollute the air and plastic bottles clog up landfills.

Market indicators point to further growth in the coming year on top of a 6.7 percent gain of bottled water sales last year, and the market has room for new entrants as soda sales give up ground and consumers seek healthier drink options, said Chris Hogan, spokesman for the International Bottled Water Association in Alexandria, Va.

While it all sounds good, there are some skeptical tribal members.

"It goes in one ear and out the other because they've heard it all before," said Trever Mitchell, a recent graduate of Washington County Community College in Calais.

But they want to believe.

While there are jobs elsewhere in Maine,

Passamaquoddies like Mitchell, 27, would prefer to live and work on the reservation, where there's a strong bond to the land.

"A lot of friends and relatives my age, they all feel the same way. They love the area. They love being around here. Our family is here. We all love the outdoors. But there's just absolutely nothing to do. There's no jobs whatsoever. And that hurts a lot of people," he said.



ROBERT F. BUKATY | ASSOCIATED PRESS | FILE PHOTO

In this April 2, 2012 photo, Michael Dugay, a consultant for the Passamaquoddy tribe, left, and Chief Joseph Socobasin lead a group visiting a spring water well site on tribal land in Indian Township, Maine.

said Chief Joseph Socobasin. "Some of them are my own family members who live off the reservation, and the only reason is that they can't find work."

The goal for the tribe is to create 70 good-paying industrial jobs at the plant and to bring in revenue to fund tribal schools, public safety, health care and an assisted-living center at Indian Township, Socobasin said. Even more jobs would

"It's about creating a future for our people. That's our main goal."

Bill Turner, a hydrologist, water source expert and tribal consultant, said rainwater and melting snow could provide more than 700 million gallons of water from multiple wells – without tapping the aquifer deep below the ground's surface. And the remote location means the water source is unspoiled.

advantage of new market tax credits for investors in rural areas as well as loan guarantee programs through the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to help cover the \$32 million cost of building the plant and the first 18 months of operation, officials said.

The Passamaquoddies have no plans to go head-to-head with Maine's Poland Spring, the nation's third-largest bottled water brand. The tribe would have its own

JEWELL

Continued from Page 1

themselves," Jewell said.

Despite the protests and concerns raised by tribes and private citizens across Indian Country, Jewell mentioned that the Obama administration's emphasis on self-governance extends to natural resource development projects, including the controversial Keystone XL pipeline expansion, which runs through four central and southern Oklahoma tribes' jurisdictional areas.

"Any time you've got development, whether it's a pipeline, a transmission line, the development of a field or otherwise, there are environmental consequences. It has to be a negotiation where people feel they're being heard, they're being listened to and effective mitigation has to be taking place. So if we're developing

an area that runs through Indian Country, it's very important that we reach an agreement that makes sense to tribes. If not, that might mean the pipeline or transmission line goes somewhere else.

"One of the things I'm committed to doing is thinking about our landscape more holistically... and saying if we are going to develop in a particular area, what's the appropriate mitigation on the landscape level that takes care of these things that are so important to us. It might involve traditions, sacred sites and making sure to avoid those areas that might come into conflict."

However, that belief in self-determination only goes so far. In 2011, the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations filed a federal lawsuit in an effort to block the Oklahoma Water Resource Board and Oklahoma City from transporting water from Sardis Lake in southeastern Oklahoma to the state's largest city. Jewell said she's learned that the DOI is the place many

tribes turn to for help upholding trust and treaty obligations.

"It's an area that is complicated. It sometimes takes decades to sort these things out. It is very important that we work alongside tribes to uphold their trust and treaty obligations, which in many cases, include really important water rights that are in conflict at a time when water is scarce in some parts of the country. It is our job as part of the federal family to make sure their voices are heard effectively with states when it comes to water rights," she said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the lake, which straddles the tribe's jurisdictions in an area that has supplied Oklahoma City with water in the past. The tribes allege they have been excluded from negotiations between the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma City Water Utility Trust in spite of the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek that they claim gives them authority over water resources

in their jurisdictions.

Admitting she is relatively new to the job, Jewell said she has learned one thing, "that no matter what we do, we get sued." She went on to express confidence in New Mexico native Mike Connor, a deputy secretary nominee who is currently working his way through the Senate. A former DOI employee, Connor served as legal counsel for the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee for eight years.

"Mike Connor is an expert on Indian water rights. He understands the complexities including the role the states play, the role the federal government plays," Jewell said.

Connor attended New Mexico State University before earning a law degree in Colorado with an emphasis on water policy. He is currently director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages federal water projects in the western United States.

**NATIVE
American
TIMES**



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The Native American Times, formerly the Oklahoma Indian Times, is published weekly (except the first and last week of the year) by Lisa Hicks Snell, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Times is not tribally owned, operated, or influenced.

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Subscription rates: \$65.00 for fifty-two issues, \$32.50 for twenty-six issues, or \$16.25 for thirteen issues. A single copy or back issue is \$1.25 (Rates are to cover postage and handling) Please note, we do not publish the first or last week of the year or on Native American Heritage Day. Send check or money order with your name, a contact number or email and mailing address to:

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Calif. Arab sparks debate over ethnic mascots

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) – For decades, a Southern California high school has had a black-haired, mustached man wearing a head scarf known as the Arab as its mascot. He’s about to get a makeover.

After Arab-Americans objected to the use of the snarling caricature to represent Coachella Valley High School, the school district 120 miles (193 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles in a region known

for date-farming and desert surroundings has decided to make changes but keep the mascot beloved to alumni.

The district aims to craft an ethnic mascot that doesn’t offend, though some experts question whether that’s possible.

The debate comes as the decades-old controversy over Native American mascots, logos and nicknames gains heat with stepped up pressure on the National Football League’s Washington R*dsK*ns to change its name.



COACHELLA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO
Coachella Valley High School’s Arab mascot as he appears on logos, T-shirts and other school clothing.

A look at controversial mascots in sports

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

THERMAL, Calif. (AP) – A California high school is redesigning its mascot of an Arab after an Arab-American group complained that the portrayal of a snarling, mustached man is steeped in offensive stereotypes. Coachella Valley High School, however, wants to keep the mascot to reflect the region east of Los Angeles’ date-growing history.

The controversy over ethnic mascots is hardly new. Many experts say using any human being as a mascot is demeaning regardless of the depiction, though communities at times have been reluctant to cede old traditions.

In recent years, scores of professional, collegiate and high school sports teams have rid themselves of ethnic mascots and logos, or modified them, while others have defended the use of the images. Here are some examples of what teams have done:

- WASHINGTON R*DSK*NS: Team officials defend the name even as critics hold demonstrations and President Barack Obama suggests he would consider a name change if he owned the team.
- CLEVELAND INDIANS: The team continues to use the image of Chief Wahoo despite criticism from those who find it offensive.
- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN: The team retired Chief Illiniwek as a mascot in 2007. The school kept the name of the Fighting Illini.
- COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY: The college in Williamsburg, Va., dropped Indian feathers from its logo after the NCAA found the image could be offensive. The school kept the name the Tribe and recently adopted a new mascot: the Griffin.
- FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY: The school in Tallahassee has kept

its team name of the Seminoles. The NCAA allowed the name because of the team’s close relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

– UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST: After a group of American Indians complained in 1972, the school ceased calling its teams the Redmen. Teams are now known as the Minutemen, and women’s teams as Minutewomen.

– UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA: The school dropped the Fighting Sioux nickname after failing to obtain approval from the state’s two namesake tribes under an NCAA settlement. The team currently does not have an official nickname or mascot.

Associated Press writer Dave Kolpack contributed to this report from Fargo, N.D.

Gov. still undecided on mascots bill

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – Gov. Scott Walker still isn’t saying whether he will sign a Republican bill that would make it harder to strip schools of American Indian mascots.

Walker said Thursday that he isn’t focused on the measure that passed in November. Walker says he will “look at it some point in the future.”

Walker can sign it into law or veto it at any time. If

he doesn’t take any action by Dec. 12, he has six days to act before the bill becomes law automatically.

Opponents of the bill are pressuring Walker to veto it, saying it is racist. But supporters say the current system for forcing removal of race-based mascots is flawed.

Walker was asked about the bill following the Capitol Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

RIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

state Attorney General Michael Geraghty acknowledging that public safety was deficient in Alaska’s villages, but saying that increasing tribal court and police power would subject non-Natives to a justice system they couldn’t change democratically.

Geraghty told The Associated Press on Friday that he met with Eid and two other commission members Wednesday and had a positive and forthright discussion. He said he disagrees with the commission’s recommendation that Congress establish a reservation system in Alaska. But he agrees that there’s room for improvement.

“There’s a lot of opportunity for

the state to work cooperatively with local tribes to enhance public safety in these communities,” he said. “And we’ve already started down that path.”

Congress established the commission in 2010 and directed it to hold hearings and meetings around the country and to report its findings to the president and Congress.

with Tribal courts exist in Alaska, but they mostly deal with family matters, such as adoption.

The state recognizes the jurisdiction of tribal courts over village members. But it recently challenged a decision by the Minto tribal court that removed the parental rights of a convicted wife beater, arguing the tribal court exceeded its authority because the man was enrolled in another village.

Eid and commission member Carole Goldberg of the UCLA School of Law criticized the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, which paved the way for the trans-Alaska oil pipeline by settling Native land claims. That law established regional and village corporations in place of reservations.

Goldberg said the law was the “last gasp of termination policy” designed to separate Natives from their traditional lands. Native American tribal authority has been recognized by laws passed since then, although Alaska often was written out of legislation, such as the Violence against Women Act, Eid and Goldberg said.

“Alaska has been left behind because of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act,” Goldberg said.

SMOKES

Continued from Page 1

maintained that the state has no authority to tax anything sold on their territory.

Depositions and court documents show that after the new law barred anyone from shipping cigarettes through the Postal Service, and major delivery companies like FedEx and UPS separately agreed to end deliveries, some reservation-based distributors simply turned to new networks of logistics and shipping companies to reach their customers.

Buyers still weren’t required to pay taxes. Some sites never asked buyers to prove their age, or even provide a real name. A few retailers proudly advertised that they would help protect tax scofflaws.

“NO STATE TAXES, NO REPORTS to anyone EVER and NO Surprise Tax Bills,” boasted one site, Nativeblend.net. “The USA Federal PACT Act is in effect, but we beat it legally.”

New York City took the unusual step last month of suing a Virginia-based delivery company, Lasership Inc., that had helped the reservation shops deliver cigarettes into the city without charging consumers the required tax of \$5.85 per pack. The suit seeks \$80.6 million in penalties.

That suit followed an earlier one against a Buffalo company, Regional Integrated Logistics, that helped a consortium of Seneca businesses set up a new distribution network after the PACT act took effect in July of 2010.

“We want to make it clear to the entire shipping community that anyone who participates in these illegal delivery sales into New York City will be subject to liabilities,” said Aaron Bloom, one of the attorneys handling the case for New York City’s Law Department.

Paul Joyce, a lawyer for Regional Integrated Logistics, said the company “never knowingly violated any law” and had stopped all cigarette deliveries permanently in response to a court injunction last spring. A lawyer for Lasership declined to comment.

Those two lawsuits were the latest in a string that have left the once-booming reservation cigarette businesses reeling, and questioning their future.

Just a few years ago, an estimated 170 cigarette distributors on New York’s reservations were collectively purchasing many millions of cartons of name-brand cigarettes each year from state-licensed wholesalers, then reselling them to buyers eager to avoid sky-high taxes.

But that flow of branded cigarettes such as Newport and Marlboro largely stopped after an earlier round of litigation and a change in state policy forced licensed wholesalers to halt sales of untaxed cigarettes to tribal businesses.

Reservation businesses switched to selling “Native” brands manufactured in Indian Territory, which curtailed demand. And now even those sales are under attack.

“They are giving us no room, as a people, to move,” said Ross John, who sits on a Seneca Nation

economic development council and also owns a rapidly shrinking business in untaxed cigarettes. “They just keep punching us around.”

Pennsylvania’s attorney general sued a Seneca cigarette dealership in Salamanca, N.Y., in June, alleging that it had concocted a scheme that allowed that state’s residents to evade taxes by ordering cartons through a “buyer’s club.”

Late last year, New York’s attorney general sued an upstate business, Native Wholesale Supply, claiming the company and an affiliated manufacturer of Seneca brand cigarettes in Canada were breaking the law by shipping vast amounts of untaxed cigarettes to warehouses on Indian territory in the U.S.

The suit claimed that in one 15-month period ending last February, Native Wholesale Supply illegally received \$221 million worth of cigarettes from Grand River Enterprises Six Nations, located in Ohsweken, Ontario. Investigators estimated that at least 1.5 billion cigarettes were involved in the transactions.

A lawyer for Native Wholesale supply, which has also been sued by state officials in Idaho and Oklahoma for supplying banned cigarettes to local tribes, didn’t return phone and email messages.

In addition to those civil cases, federal prosecutors in Kansas City, Mo., brought charges in August against 18 people they said had conspired to deliver 620,000 cartons of untaxed cigarettes to cigarette dealers on reservations in western New York. Businessmen in Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Virginia, Nebraska, Washington and Montreal were charged in the case, which involved \$17 million worth of cigarettes purchased from a warehouse run by undercover ATF agents.

Lawyers for many of those defendants declined to comment or didn’t return several messages. But an attorney for Keith Stoldt, who operated the Totem Pole Smoke Shop on the Tonawanda Seneca Indian Reservation in Basom, N.Y., and pleaded guilty this year to illegally acquiring \$4.1 million in untaxed cigarettes, said the cases are complicated by centuries-old disputes over taxation and sovereignty.

“These guys were here first. They have continuously owned and occupied their patch of heaven. They’ve never accepted citizenship,” said Brad Waterman, a former tax counsel to both the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Seneca Nation. “What the Iroquois people would tell you is, ‘We traded with each other a long time before any of you guys got here.’”

John, the Seneca entrepreneur, said that cigarettes had created a new class of entrepreneurs among a people who had been impoverished for generations, but that he wouldn’t count on tobacco being part of the tribe’s economic solution for much longer.

“They’ve made it very difficult for anyone to supply to you,” he said. “I’m not in a position where it’s even viable for me right now. They’ve turned it into a criminal activity.”



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COMMENTARY

▼▼▼▼▼

Cobell funds delay cuts deep



S.E. RUCKMAN

It was bound to come down to this, is the way I look at things. The recently announced delay of monies from the Cobell Indian Trust Settlement felt as natural as rain. In the broadest terms, the sheer calculation of recipients, either living or dead, was way off since

the \$3.4 billion landmark decision was set in 2010.

That is to say, preliminary calculations on just who was going to receive monies seem to be based on vastly inaccurate and incomplete information. I cringe at the thought. If it were not so, then the pro rata distribution (second round of payouts) would have flowed into Native hands before the first quarter of 2014.

It must be for the sake of nostalgia that American Indians are once again involved in a waiting game with the federal government over things that are administrated to them by straight-faced officials. A logical evolution is in order, I offer. An alternative thought

is similarly disconcerting: If recipient estimates were so weak, then how much so were the calculations on the final settlement sum?

Nevertheless, across actual Indian Country, the reverberations cut deep. The holidays approacheth and many who had been earlier notified of their pro-rata payment suddenly had to scramble for their yuletide funds. And woe to those who actually believed what they had been told.

In my hometown, so outraged were its Indian residents and Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders that they set to protesting outside of the local Bureau office. This speaks volumes.

For one, it points to the sheer frustration Native folks are feeling over the Cobell settlement. Secondly, it reiterates just how out-of-touch federal officials appear to be with common Indians who dwell outside of the Capitol Beltway in Washington, D.C.

Sad to say, there seems to be a disconnect from the bureaucracy of being Indian to actually being Indian. That is a loaded statement, I know. But on one info site, it proclaims that payment to more than 80 percent of the historical accounting class was completed and checks sent out.

Then there are the issues of estates and whereabouts unknown claims, a trust

website said. I believe that. But it became clear that so many people sought claims confirmation after the set deadline that it was rumored settlement funds might have to re-distributed from the \$1.4 billion earmarked for account holder payments. I don't want to believe that.

Things in Indian Country are complicated, even on a sunny day. With this in mind, contradictions in Cobell information (real or imagined) make the delay no less consequential. Grandparents are still raising children, babies are being born and heating bills continue to accumulate.

From a map's eye view, the 63-mile Beltway in D.C. oddly resembles an axe head

(Google at will). No small coincidence when taken into account that this literal boundary separates just as cleanly as its figurative boundary. I'm struggling to be fair here. But any tie-up in Cobell monies feels like an overkill of redundancy by the same hands.

Therefore, all I want for Christmas is trust reform.

S.E. Ruckman is a citizen of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Anadarko, Okla. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma's School of Journalism and has written for the Tulsa World and is currently a special contributor to the Native Times. She is a freelance writer based in Oklahoma.

Chuckling during a funeral would have been a disaster



TIM GIAGO

The mass had been said. And now it was time for Tommy Brewer and me, attired in the vestments of altar boys, to lead the funeral procession out of the front door of the Holy Rosary Indian Mission church on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and up the hill to the cemetery.

As we started up the hill in front of the procession we listened to the elderly Lakota women mourners walking directly behind us. When a Lakota man, woman or child dies, the entire community turns out for the wake and the funeral. The women weep in unison and their cries of mourning can cut to your heart like a knife.

The first time I witnessed death and heard the Lakota women mourn was before I started school. I lived at the reservation community of Pejuta Haka (Medicine Root), or Kyle, as it is listed on the reservation map.

One of our neighbors at Three-Mile-Creek, where my family had its allotted land, was the Hernandez family. One of the children, a girl about my age, was my playmate. One beautiful summer day we were sitting on the top of a flat-bed trailer used to haul hay. The Hernandez girl was looking at the fluffy white clouds floating against the deep blue sky when she saw a sleigh with Santa Claus on board holding the reins and

guiding his reindeer. She pointed it out and I looked to the skies and saw it just as she described it.

A month or two later she died. I could never get the Santa in the skies out of my mind and always related that sight to her dying. I know that wasn't the case now, but back then I was even afraid for a little while to look up at the cloud formations for fear of seeing Santa and his reindeer.

My mom took me to the Hernandez home for the wake of my friend. The room was filled with people and my little friend was lying on a table dressed all in white. I kept waiting for her to sit up, call my name, so we could go outside and play. The image of her in that white dress lying on that table stayed with me my entire life. The small room where her body lay smelled of the food that had been prepared for the wake and in the confined space the weeping and mourning of the Lakota women was nearly overwhelming and as my mother joined the cacophony of weeping, the tears immediately came to my eyes.

A Lakota Wicasa Wakan (Holy Man) stood by the table with the body of my friend. He held an Eagle feather in his hand and prayed aloud in the Lakota language. He did so even though back in those days the Lakota religion or spirituality had been outlawed by the U. S. Government. Yes my friends that did happen in America, the supposed land of religious freedom. What man does not understand man fears.

I have been to many funerals since that day many years ago. It seems that I lose a friend or acquaintance nearly every week. Oftentimes the

image of a long ago friend or school mate pops into my head and I have to pause and wonder if they are still alive because they would have to be in their 70s or 80s if they were still alive. When we left school at the Holy Rosary Mission we scattered to the four directions. After all, we are Oglala and Oglala means to "scatter their own."

The funeral I described at the beginning is still with me because on this mournful occasion Tommy Brewer and I nearly experienced a calamity. As our procession proceeded up the hill to the cemetery I glanced over at Tommy to make sure we were walking evenly and in step. At that very moment Tommy looked at me and tried to stifle a snicker. His actions hit me immediately and I had to bite down on my lip so hard to keep from laughing that I drew blood. Now wouldn't that have been a disaster if two altar boys broke out laughing in a funeral procession?

The last time I saw Tommy was at the funeral of his brother "Budger" Brewer and we stood outside of the church and had a good laugh over the time we nearly cracked up at a funeral. Tommy died a couple of years ago and when I attended his funeral my thoughts went back to the day we nearly broke up at a funeral. Diabetes, the scourge of the Indian Nations, claimed his life.

But even at his funeral, the reminder of Tommy choking back a chuckle as we led the funeral procession at Holy Rosary Mission brought a smile to my face.

Tim Giago is the Publisher of Native Sun News in Rapid City, South Dakota. He can be reached at editor@nsweekly.com

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The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for the position of District Court Chief Judge. To apply, submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Cynthia Butler, Executive Secretary, PO Box 470, Pawnee, OK 74058. Position description can be viewed on the Pawnee Nation web site at www.pawneenation.org. Applications may be e-mailed to cbutler@pawneenation.org. For questions regarding the position; please call Suzie Kanuho, Court Clerk at (918) 762-3011 or e-mail at skanuho@pawneenation.org. The deadline to apply is 5 pm on Friday, December 22, 2013.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Ad Sales Representative

The Osage Nation is soliciting proposals from individuals and/or firms for an Ad Sales Representative. Responses will be accepted until 11:00 AM (CDT) on November 21, 2013 at the Purchasing Office of the Osage Nation, 627 Grandview Ave, Pawhuska, OK 74056.

The detailed Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Purchasing Office.

Osage Preference will be applied in awarding the contract in compliance with the Osage preference in Employment Law.

The Osage Nation reserves the right to reject any and all responses.

Please contact Tammy Leeper, Procurement Officer, with the Osage Nation Purchasing Office @ 918-287-5344 to request a copy of the detailed Request for Proposal.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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Bacone College is seeking a payroll/accounts receivable clerk to work in the Business office. Primary responsibilities are payroll, and accounts receivable; however this person is expected to assist in all facets of the business office.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in payroll (recent experience will be preferred) as well as experience posting receivables, working with the GL, invoicing and collections.

Must possess computer skills with knowledge of Excel or similar spreadsheet program. Willingness to learn the CAMS database is essential. Must have good interpersonal skills, written and oral skills. Must be a self-starter and be able to work with little supervision.

Desirable Education and Experience: Bachelors degree in Accounting is desired. At least two years of experience in payroll processing is a must.

Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: humanresources@bacone.edu or Human Resources, Bacon College, 2299 Old Bacon Road, Muskogee, OK 74403. Bacon College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

Division of Arts & Science
**ADJUNCT
INSTRUCTOR**

Bacone College seeks applications for the position of adjunct instructor in the Division of Arts and Science. Instructors are needed for the spring semester to teach courses in Christian Ministry in the following areas: New Testament, The Gospels, Church Administration, and others. These course will be taught on the main campus during the day. Requirements include an advanced degree and college teaching experience in the arts or the humanities. Salary competitive.

Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, and three references to: Human Resources, Bacon College, 2299 Old Bacon Rd., Muskogee, OK 74403. Bacon College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

Mathematics and Algebra
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR


Bacone College is seeking daytime, on campus adjunct instructors for the Division of Academic Support for the Spring 2014 semester.

Candidates should be prepared to teach developmental courses in mathematics and algebra and be able to accommodate a schedule with a fluctuating workload. Previous work involving college age youth is a plus, especially in developmental education.

Applicants must have an appropriate degree. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's degree is preferred. Salary is competitive.

Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until positions are filled. Candidates should submit a letter of interest, vita, and three professional references to: Human Resources, Bacon College, 2299 Old Bacon Rd., Muskogee, OK 74403. Bacon College is a private four-year college with a mission to provide opportunities to American Indian students and employees. EOE

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THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code

Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

THROUGH DECEMBER 24
Native American Christmas Market will be held at the Tribal Art Center and Bad Eagle Gallery, 423 West C Avenue downtown Cache. The event is open to the public and no admission. The market will be open 6 days a week Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. For information call Eleanor McDaniel, Coordinator at (580) 429-3430 or 483-6864.

DECMEBER 12
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – The Cherokee Nation is opening its doors to visitors with a Christmas Open House. Several Cherokee Nation departments will have festive booths set up to provide visitors with information on services. Santa Claus and other Christmas characters will be on hand to take photos. For more information, call Diane Kelley at 918-453-5000, ext. 5628.

6:30 p.m. – Sequoyah High School's theatre department presents Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" dinner theatre in the school cafeteria, 17091 S. Muskogee Ave in Tahlequah. Turkey and dressing will be served. Admission is \$5 and \$2 for children under 12. Another show will be Dec. 13 at the same time. To make reservations, contact Amanda Ray at 918-575-3376 or amanda-bruce@cherokee.org.

DECEMBER 13
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program's Annual Holiday Toy Drive ends. Please drop off donations in Okmulgee, Henryetta, Eufaula or Muskogee. For locations, call Debbie Severson, 918-319-8102. Please help make Christmas a joyous one for a

child in need of some cheer. Mvto!

DECEMBER 14
Native American Christmas Market, 9am-6pm, Elks Lodge, 24 S Poplar Sapulpa, OK. Concession by Autumn Star Catering. Native entertainment throughout day (918)852-0017 [facebook/Autumn Star Catering](https://www.facebook.com/AutumnStarCatering)

Ponca Tribe Youth MSPI Program contest powwow at the White Eagle Cultural Center. Gourd Dancing starts at 2pm. Contest categories for boys/girls 9-18 years old and 8 years and under. More info call Lahoma Schultz 580-304-1369.

DECEMBER 16
6 p.m. – The Cherokee Nation Tribal Council meeting will be held in the Tribal Council chambers at the W.W. Keeler Complex, 17675 S. Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah.

DECEMBER 17
Kiowa Tribe Elder Payments, 2pm-5pm at Hard Rock Casino, Catoosa. All recipients must be 65 or older and on the Kiowa Roll. For more info call the Kiowa Enrollment Office, 580-654-2300, ext. 327

DECEMBER 19
The Otoe-Missouria Tribe hosts an Open House at the Cultural Building. Tribal Programs will have information booths set up to help tribal members apply for the many services available. Doors open at 9 am. Lunch served at noon. Call 580-723-4466 ext 217 for more information.

DECEMBER 20
9 a.m. – Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School to put on "Down Home Traditional Christmas" program at Sequoyah High School's old gym in Tahlequah, 17091 S. Muskogee Ave. Program is free and open

to the public. For more information, call 918-207-4900.

Kiowa Elder Payments in Red Buffalo Hall at the Kiowa Tribal Complex from 10am - 12pm. All recipients must be 65 or older and on the Kiowa Roll. For more info call the Kiowa Enrollment Office, 580-654-2300, ext. 327

DECEMBER 20
Annual Bykes 4 Tykes Community Children's Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. at the Pawnee Nation Roundhouse on the Pawnee Nation Reserve in Pawnee. There will be a drawing for bicycles for children of the community. Also, all children receive candy sacks and Santa hats. Santa and Pawnee Bill and his horse will be at the party. Bring a camera to have your pictures taken with both and join in the carols. For more information, call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041.

*Want to make a donation to Bykes 4 Tykes? Call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041 or reach him by mail at the address: 812 Granite St., Pawnee, OK, 74058. Bykes 4 Tykes will accept donations up to the day of the Dec. 22 Christmas party for the purchase of additional children's bicycles.

DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 3
Native American Times Winter Break - Publishing to resume week of January 6th.

DEC. 30 -JANUARY 10
The Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation will be taking applications for students who need dorm room or college housing assistance. Through the program, up to 125 full-time students working on a bachelor's degree will receive \$1,000 per semester for housing costs. Students must show enrollment in an accredited institute of higher education. Applicants must be a member

of a federally recognized tribe and have a home address inside the Cherokee Nation jurisdictional boundaries. Students must also meet NAHASDA income guidelines. Priority will be given to CN citizens. For more information, call 918-456-5482.

DECEMBER 31
Annual New Years Eve Sobriety Powwow sponsored by Friends of Sobriety in memory of Niles Bosin. Gourd Dancing begins at 1pm at Cox Convention Center, 100 Civic Center, Tulsa, Okla. Info call Lorraine, 918-639-7999 or email Lorraine at choctaw1865@yahoo.com.

Yuchi/Euchee Heritage Festival's New Year's Eve Stomp Dance at Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center, 13839 S. Casper St., Glenpool (HWY 75 & N. 141st ST.) Vendors at 1pm - dancing starts at 7pm. Raffles, cake plates, 50/50s and more. Info call Wade Bucktrot 918-378-9385.

JANUARY 4
One Day At A Time Dance for Recovery and Prevention at Clinton Community Hall. Gourd Dancing begins at 3pm. Supper at 6pm. Info contact Ruth Bearshield 580-821-1667 or email NativesInRecovery13@yahoo.com

JANUARY 15
Deadline to file candidacy in annual Peoria Tribal Election. Info call 918-540-2535, ext. 15 or email ablack2@peoriatribe.com

MARCH 1
Peoria Tribe Annual Elections. Vote for Chief and two seats on the Grievance Committee, each for four year terms. Polls open 7am - noon.



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‘Bykes for Tykes’ brightens holiday for Pawnee children

KAREN SHADE
Native Times

PAWNEE, Okla. – In the town of Pawnee, it’s not usual to still see children riding their bikes around the small central Oklahoma town. Many of them have Al Thayer and his friends to thank.

For the last nine years, Thayer (Pawnee and Shoshone) has carried on an annual Christmas party for the children of the community of around 2,200. Children receive a bag filled with old-fashioned sweets, oranges, apples and other goodies. Some also get a bicycle to put under the Christmas tree.

“It started out, I had a friend who had a toy run for the area,” Thayer said.

After moving to Pawnee 11 years ago, Thayer became friends with the late couple Carl “Buffalo” Stringfellow Jr. and Cindy Stringfellow. The Stringfellows helped organize the Cimarron Valley Toy Run for Pawnee County DHS 25 years ago to give toys to children in foster care and under court guardianship. Like the Stringfellows, Thayer shared a love of motorcycles and riding the open road with friends. He’ll be the first to tell you of the generosity of bikers.

“It seems like if someone can’t work or can’t support their family, the guys get together to help,” he said. “Bikers have always been that way for each other.”

That generosity extends to children who may not have a present for Christmas. The area, largely rural, has known hard times, and recent years have been

especially trying locally as well as nationally.

This group of bikers raised money and collected toys through the U.S. Marine Corps’ Toys 4 Tots program and gave them out as presents to needy

“When I was a little kid, I never had a bicycle until I was probably eight- or nine-years-old. It was just a, you know, a used bike. When I got my first new bike, that was really something. Today, these kids are still

the annual kids’ Christmas party wavered after the Toys 4 Tots program pulled out of Pawnee because it did not have a local U.S. Marine sponsor or was organized through the Pawnee Nation.

Thayer wanted to carry on the Stringfellow’s legacy and organized fundraisers to purchase bikes for all the children in the area regardless of age, race or income. With help from numerous supporters, Thayer’s Bykes 4 Tykes was created and still works as a community-based, grassroots effort to make sure the children of the community have a Christmas party.

“It’s a lot of work, but it all pays off on that night,” he said.

An Annual Run to the Nation Toy Run brings in money that will go to purchase new bikes for this year’s party as well donated toys for Pawnee County’s

Court Appointed Special Advocates program. CASA trains volunteers to act in the interest of abused and neglected children in court and legal proceedings.

The bikes are purchased at nearby Cleveland’s Wal-Mart SuperCenter and assembled by store employees. As with past years, organizers expect at least 200 children to attend this year’s Bykes

4 Tykes party, Dec. 20, at the Pawnee Nation Roundhouse in Pawnee. Thayer and many other volunteers work hard to raise money with the toy run, Indian taco sales and other fundraisers, but there isn’t enough to give a new bicycle to every child who attends. Instead, names are drawn, and each year, children leave happy. Some have a new bike to ride from place to place around town. They’re also getting exercise. As a biker, Thayer finds that reassuring.

“Instead of sitting around, playing those games on computer, they’ve got a bike to coast around on,” he said.

Friend Lily Harms of Pawnee has worked with Thayer on Bykes 4 Tykes for many years.

“Al’s efforts should be commended because he literally takes time from his businesses to go knocking door to door soliciting donations and volunteers to make it all happen,” she said. “All his hard work pays off when you see the children’s faces light up as they run to claim that brand new shiny bicycle.”

**Want to make a donation to Bykes 4 Tykes? Call Al Thayer at (918) 399-9041 or reach him by mail at the address: 812 Granite St., Pawnee, OK, 74058. Bykes 4 Tykes will accept donations up to the day of the Dec. 20 Christmas party for the purchase of additional children’s bicycles.*



KAREN SHADE | NATIVETIMES
For the last several years, Al Thayer (Pawnee and Shoshone) has carried on an annual Christmas party for the children of Pawnee, Okla., a community of around 2,200. Children receive a bag filled with old-fashioned sweets, oranges, apples and other goodies. Some also get a bicycle to put under the Christmas tree.

children of the area. In 2004, the Cimarron Valley Toy Run held a 50/50 drawing – participants purchased tickets with the chance of winning half of the total amount collected by the sale. The other half would go to a charity. That year, funds were entrusted to Thayer who purchased 17 bicycles for children in low-income families.

Why bikes?

the same. They’re really happy,” Thayer said.

Thayer was born in the area and grew up near Pawnee, but he lived in Texas for a time. He wanted his own son, Christopher, to grow up in his hometown, so he returned and established his business, First American Upholstery and Auto Detail Shop in Pawnee.

In 2005, resources for

Weather puts hold on state playoff games

OKLAHOMA CITY – Anadarko High School will have to wait a little longer for its third straight state football championship game.

On Wednesday, the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association announced it is postponing this week’s 11 football playoff games across all seven classifications due pending winter weather. Oklahoma State University, the site of the Class 4A state championship, is projected to get up to a half-inch of ice and between three and six inches of snow Thursday and Friday.

Undefeated Anadarko, last year’s Class 4A runner-up, was originally scheduled play Poteau (12-1) Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. at Boone Pickens Stadium. That game is now scheduled for Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.

With three tribes headquartered in the city and four more with capitols within 40 miles of town, almost two-thirds of the students enrolled in Anadarko Public Schools are Native American.

The postponed games also impact two other schools with a large Native American population. Rather than play Friday night, Boone-Apache High School (11-2), located in Apache, Okla., will face undefeated Hollis High School at 7 p.m. on Dec. 13 at Cache High School in a Class A semifinal matchup. Located 25 minutes south of Anadarko, Okla., almost half of the student body at Boone-Apache is Native.

If Boone-Apache pulls off the upset, it could potentially face another school with a predominantly Native student body. In the other Class A semifinal, undefeated Talihina will play Ringling (13-1) on Dec. 13 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla. Located in the northeastern corner of the Choctaw Nation, more than half of the student body at Talihina High School is Native.

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